

The Baptist Record

Published Since 1877

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First Church, Clinton's new sanctuary

First, Clinton, enters \$2 million sanctuary

Clinton's First Baptist Church dedicated a new \$2 million sanctuary and set a new record attendance for Sunday School of 1,074 on June 4.

Marching from the old sanctuary to the new, the congregation met together for that morning worship service for the first time in several years because two morning services have been necessary to accommodate the crowds. Oddly enough, for that initial service in the new worship center, chairs had to be placed in the aisles of the 1,200 seat auditorium when more than 1,400 were on hand.

The actual dedication service was held in the afternoon with Jim Futral representing the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Lewis Nobles, president, represented Mississippi College, and Mayor Billy Ray Smith, a deacon in the church, spoke for the town. Robert Wills, chairman of the building committee, introduced many who had had a part in the construction.

Bill Baker, pastor, preached and administered the ordinance of baptism at the first service. Wayne Edwards, minister of education, led the march and welcomed the attendants in the new sanctuary. William Bacon, minister of music, led the singing and directed the 100-voice chancel choir. Ralph Taylor was at the console of the new Schantz organ.

The sanctuary is the third home for the Clinton congregation in 137 years. Founded in 1852 in order that the newly acquired Baptist school — Mississippi College — would have a Baptist church nearby, the church and college jointly erected the Old Chapel — now known as Provine Chapel — in 1860. Both used that facility until 1923 when the church built its own building.

Several members who were present when the congregation moved from the college chapel into the 1923 sanctuary were present again this time for the move to the new church.

There are 17 stained glass windows in the new facility, all given in memory or in honor of loved ones. Many other memorials include, the pulpit furniture, hymnals, Bibles for the pews, a bride's room, groom's room, and a pastor's office.

A new communion service, another memorial, was used the third Sunday morning in the sanctuary as the one congregation was able to gather together again at the Lord's table.

A Together-We-Build campaign, and a sale of church bonds, enabled the church to go ahead with the construction of the long-awaited sanctuary. It was the third building to be built by the church under the pastoral leadership of Baker. An education building

was built a few years ago, and even before that was completed, an activities building was added.

No immediate plans have been made for the now vacated sanctuary. It has many ties to the past and to the state because hundreds of Mississippi College students have worshiped there. More than 200 missionaries have gone out from there to mission fields or have returned on furloughs or in retirement to be members. When that building was constructed, Baptists from all over the state made contributions to enable the church to have a place of worship that would be close to the campus and be able to accommodate the students. For many years, the membership and the attendance was often equally divided between town and college members. In more recent years, as Clinton has been one of Mississippi's fastest growing cities, and the college students have become more mobile, the church has become more town-centered.

In the past 20 years, First Church has had a part in establishing four other Baptist churches in the Clinton area to serve the 22,000+ population. When the 1923 building was occupied, the town's census showed fewer than 1,500. Membership at Clinton FBC today is more than 2,600 with 1,700+ on the resident roll.

Bible-free or free Bibles?

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (EP) — The head of a group of atheists and agnostics who are campaigning to get Holiday Inn to offer Bible-free hotel rooms was given a gift by Zondervan Corporation President Jim Buick: a copy of the New International Version of the Bible.

Buick sent the Bible to Anne Gaylor, president of Freedom From Religion, which wants Holiday Inns to banish Bibles.

Buick says his gift was a friendly one. "I hope there will always be room at the Inns for Bibles," Buick wrote. "Concurrently, I recognize your right in our great democratic system to disagree."

Buick says he was not so much motivated by Proverbs 25:21 ("if your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat") as he was by Acts 8:30, in which Philip asks a man reading Isaiah, "Do you understand what you are reading?" and is told "How can I unless someone explains it to me?"

Buick explained, "I thought perhaps Ms. Gaylor is waging a campaign against a book she hadn't read in a long time, and that she would find the newer modern translation user-friendly."

In his letter to Gaylor, Buick noted, "You are, of course, free not to read it, just as are Holiday Inn guests. Hundreds of thousands of travelers, however, have found hotel room Bibles an appreciated convenience, a comfort — even a necessity."

A survey by Quality International Inc. found that 31 percent of guests read the Bible found in hotel rooms. Memphis-based Holiday Inns' response, as quoted in Travel Agent magazine: "We told them [Freedom From Religion] we've always had the Bibles, and we'll continue to have them because it's a matter of choice if the guest wants to read it or not."

Koreans appoint missionaries

SEOUL, South Korea — The Korean Baptist Convention has appointed its first missionaries — two couples and a single woman who will go to Indonesia under the banner of the year-old Korea Foreign Mission Board. With these appointments, small local churches have a channel through which to support worldwide mission

efforts. Ten Korean Baptist missionary couples already serve abroad under sponsorship of individual churches large enough to support them. "I think sending missionaries to other countries will help contribute greatly to Baptist growth in Korea," said No Chon Woo, the convention's executive secretary.

Christians face Muslims in prayer confrontation

By Eric Miller

BERLIN (BP) — Nothing visible happened June 17 when hundreds of Muslims and Christians faced each other in Berlin for a two-hour prayer confrontation.

Fire did not rain down on the 100 Christians, nor did the earth open and swallow them, as the Muslims warned might happen to Christians who heard the Islamic message and refused to become Muslims.

A Turkish hoja — a leader of an Islamic mosque in Berlin — issued the challenge for a prayer confrontation to Christians in the German city

in February, according to a Baptist from the United States who participated in the event. The American asked not to be identified.

The Christians prayed about the challenge for six weeks. After accepting it, they asked churches in the United States and Europe to pray for them. The hoja reportedly seemed surprised the Christians had taken the challenge so seriously.

The Christians, from several denominations, met about 200 Turkish Muslims gathered in a city park at 3 p.m. June 17. They formed semicircles facing each other. The ho-

ja read from the Koran and said Jesus was a prophet who did not die on the cross and was not God.

He went on to read a Koranic passage that says when non-Muslims hear the Islamic message and do not become Muslims, then Muslims are to gather to pray that God will curse them.

One of the Christians read several New Testament passages, including Matthew 17:1-5, the account of Jesus' transfiguration in which the voice of God identified Jesus as "my beloved son." The leader explained the Christians would not pray for a curse on the

Muslims, but would pray the Muslims would find God's love and blessing.

The hoja rebutted what the Christian said, and then a German Baptist pastor talked about Jesus and explained the only way to heaven is through him.

The hoja issued an invitation for the Christians to stand and make a public acceptance of the Islamic message. No one stood, so the hoja said the Muslims' only alternative was to pray for a curse on the Christians.

As the two groups began praying, the Muslim men sat apart from the women and children with them. The

Christian men, women and children sat together.

The Muslims sat in rows, the Christians in circles. The Muslims, some wearing tiny hats symbolizing trips to Mecca, quietly knelt in prayer. The Christians prayed, sometimes aloud, and later played guitars and sang songs of praises.

"Theirs was a message of doom if we don't come to Islam and ours a message of love and forgiveness," a Christian woman said.

The Baptist man said he believed the Christians had planted seeds of Christianity among the Muslims.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

A Mississippi tragedy

The tragic events surrounding the Mississippi nominee at the Southern Baptist Convention for the Home Mission Board still leave a lot of questions unanswered. Joe Reynolds, a Houston, Texas, attorney who was the chairman of the SBC committee on nominations, has failed to return any Baptist Record telephone calls, though we tried all last week to reach him.

In trying to determine what happened, a finger should not be pointed at anyone. It is evident, however, that something went wrong with the nomination process. The biggest question, perhaps, is why was Tommy Vinson, pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon, not suitable because he was a pastor when a pastor was finally selected. Vinson was Mississippi's first suggestion for the Home Mission Board. Reynolds told the two Mississippians on the Committee, Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, and Gene Simmons, an attorney who is a member of First Church, Jackson, that in order to maintain the proper balance of the Home Mission Board a layman would need to be nominated. The name of a layman, Jerry Caffey of First Church,

Gulfport, was presented; but another pastor, Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Board Church, Long Beach, was presented to the convention as the nominee.

Neither of the Mississippians was involved in the final selection. Martin was suggested to a subcommittee of the committee on nominations by Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, who was not a committee member. Neither of the Mississippi members of the committee on nominations was on the subcommittee.

The written procedures for the committee on nominations say that if a substitution is necessary in a state's suggestions, the two representatives for that state should be notified. In no case, the procedures point out, shall a substitution be made without notifying at least one of the state's representatives.

Neither was notified.

In past years it has been reported that the committee on nominations checked with either Paul Pressler of Houston or Paige Patterson of Dallas, two architects of the "conservative" movement, on potential nominees. There has been no opportunity to

determine if such was the case this year because of the inability to reach Reynolds. Pressler is a Houston judge, and Patterson is president of Criswell College and associate pastor of First Church, Dallas.

There is no reason to feel that the person who was elected will not serve effectively. There is reason to question the process by which the nomination was effected. The Baptist Record plans to continue to search for the links that are missing in the chain of events. This is not because we receive any particular joy in such a search. When Baptists' procedures are short circuited, however, Baptists need to know about it.

Register first told the Baptist Record about the switch by telephone during the convention. He had not attended because of his strenuous fight against gambling on the Gulf Coast and the site of the convention being the gambling city of Las Vegas. Simmons had told Register and then also contacted the Baptist Record and confronted Reynolds on the first day of the convention.

Among the questions still unanswered are two that perhaps will never be. The first is "Why?" the se-



cond is "How long?" We've been through 11 conventions with this sort of behind-the-scenes manipulation.

Has not the time long passed for it to have been stopped?

There seem to be three ways we can go from here. We can continue to

maneuver behind the scenes and continue in the same tense atmosphere we have now. We can give up such manipulations and seek to work back toward an atmosphere of mutual trust again. Or we can disintegrate.

The choice is ours.

A free press

Being a Baptist means being free, and the maintenance of freedom requires a free press. Baptist Press, the news gathering and disseminating agency for Southern Baptists, is continuing to come under pressure that would destroy its freedom.

To a great degree, those pressures are to be found within the membership of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the very organization that is supposed to be protecting Baptist Press from pressure.

Baptist Press was begun in 1946 at the insistence of the Southern Baptist state paper editors. It was begun as a service to the state papers. It was first placed with the Sunday School Board, for that agency said it would be happy to finance the effort. Very shortly it was felt, however, that a news operation should not be financed by an agency because of the possible temptation on the part of the agency to manage the news by manipulating the funds or the personnel. Baptist Press was moved to the Executive Committee where it would be financed by all Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program and where it was felt it would be protected from agency pressure. Through the years there has been agency pressure on occasion, but Baptist Press has not had to bow to it.

Because the public relations office of the Executive Committee was already engaged in producing news releases, Baptist Press was placed there. It is not, however, a part of the public relations efforts of the Executive Committee. It is a news agency, and its task is to present the news

as objectively and as fairly as possible.

Over the past few years, as it has reported the news, it has of necessity reported on the activities of some Executive Committee members. In some cases, those members have wanted the news to be managed to suit their desires. It cannot be so.

Baptist Press is a wonderful organization. It makes the work of the state papers many times easier than it would be without it. If efforts to manipulate Baptist Press were ever successful, however, it would lose its value immediately.

The Baptist state papers have an operation already in place that observes and covers as necessary all

of Southern Baptists' major developments. We don't use it as our primary news operation because we don't need to. If it were to become necessary, it would become our primary news source overnight.

The state papers also have a group called the Baptist Press Liaison Committee, the major function of which is supposed to be to counsel with Baptist Press personnel in order that the news operation could best serve the needs of the state papers. This editor is chairman. In recent years that function has had to become secondary as the liaison committee has had to spend its major efforts in seeking to protect Baptist Press from those who would dominate its operation.

We plan to continue doing this.

In honor of freedom

rifles, tanks, and machine guns.

Freedom is a precious thing to those who don't have it, and it should be to us. Even though the United States is not thought of as a war-like nation, we have found ourselves involved in a large number of wars over the past years — fighting for someone's freedom — ours or someone else's. As we approach our national holiday commemorating our declaration of independence, let us remember those of our own who have fought for freedom; and, especially, let us remember those who died in that quest.

Let us pray that it will never again be necessary.

The world is waking to the desire for freedom. A commentator recently described a Sunday as the day the earth shook. The Polish people held their first election in many years, the dictator of Iran died, the totalitarianism of communist Russia showed signs of cracking, and Chinese students made known their determination to be free.

We can admire those who are giving so much in the pursuit of freedom and be grateful with those who are beginning to attain it. Let us not ignore our own freedom, however, and let us not fail to be grateful for it.

Freedom is not a permanent quality. Its perpetuation requires constant

care and vigilance.

It is precious, as the Chinese students would testify. Let us be ever on guard so that it will not be fleeting. Its preservation would be much easier than would be an attempt to win it back if it were lost.

We are not treating our freedom well in these days. We are mocking it in a permissive society that gives way too easily to a drug-filled way of life and pornographic interests.

Being free does not mean being controlled by rigidity, but it does mean living in such a way as to bring honor to the freedom that has been handed us by those who paid the necessary price for it.

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Nunnery announces December retirement

Paul N. Nunnery, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village since 1960, has announced his

retirement on Dec. 31. Nunnery has served as chief executive officer of the Village longer than any executive in the agency's history.

At its regular meeting on June 27, Village trustees expressed regret at Nunnery's decision and appreciation for his service. They also adopted a procedure for selecting his successor.

According to Trustee President James T. Hollingsworth, Nunnery asked during the Board's March meeting that a committee be appointed to review his request for relief from duty. In later meetings, Nunnery and the committee agreed on the date for retirement and that committee was named as the search committee for Nunnery's successor.

The search committee is composed of Dorothy R. Walker, chairperson; James Hollingsworth; Charles L. Miller; M. G. Reedy; W. F. Evans; Fred L. Gaddis; Ralph H. Hester; and Robert W. King. The committee includes all board officers, committee chairs, and the board attorney.

Expressions of interest and requests for applications must be in writing and addressed to Charles L. Miller, secretary, search committee, Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027, on or before Aug. 1.



Paul Nunnery

Carey trustees name Edwards as interim

James W. Edwards, 51, was named interim president at William Carey College at a special called meeting Monday of the trustees which was closed to the press and the public. Trustees at that meeting heard the results of an investigative report on the college's administrative and fiscal practices by the Mississippi Education Commission.

Trustees, through a resolution released after the meeting, said they planned to call a special meeting on or before July 31 to respond to the special study of the Education Commission, and that they would not release contents of the study before that time. A separate news release, provided by Edwards, stated that the board "voted officially to disseminate the full Special Study Report through the Baptist Record in July.

The resolution stated that the report is approximately "100 pages in length with a significant list of important information, concerns, findings, and recommendations related to the financial condition and administrative operation of the college." Carey has a deficit of about \$1 million, with a total indebtedness of more than \$6 million, according to earlier reports.

And the resolution "Resolved that the trustee chairman and the financial administrator be directed to work cooperatively with and through all Mississippi Baptist entities including the Education Commission, the Baptist Record, the Convention Board (and Executive Committee), and, if

needed, the Mississippi Baptist Convention in the institutional responses, decisions, and dissemination of the full Special Study Report related to the effectiveness of operation and the financial condition of William Carey College, and be it further Resolved that no other trustee or employee of the college other than the board chairman and the financial administrator has the authority to disseminate directly or indirectly to any external party or media any information included in the Special Study Report."

Edwards will hold the post of interim president while a search committee, chaired by David Grant of Jackson, searches for a successor to J. Ralph Noonkester who served as president for 33 years before retiring last month.

Edwards, who was hired a month ago as Carey's temporary financial administrator after he had been hired by the Education Commission to aid in their investigation of Carey, is a certified public accountant with a Ph.D. in business and economics from Michigan State University. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and earned the master of business administration degree from Indiana University.

He was academic vice president at Dallas Baptist University, 1980-83, and was financial vice president and chief operating officer at the SBC Radio and Television Commission, 1983-87. Most recently he has been a financial services and fund raising consultant.

He served two terms as mayor of

Plano, Tex., 1978-82. He and his wife Imogene have three children. He is a member of First Church, Jackson, Tenn.

In a press release, Edwards said his priorities at Carey "include reducing the divisiveness at the college, stabilizing the institution's financial condition, achieving full reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and reaffirming the faith, learning, and service missions of William Carey's role as a Mississippi Baptist institution."

Said Edwards in the release, "The crisis at Carey is very real and significant, but it is a challenge that can be turned into an opportunity for institutional renewal and growth." He added, "There are many positive things to build on at William Carey College that have been lost sight of during this period of controversy. Faculty are still teaching effectively, students are still learning, and many friends and alumni are supporting and can still support the college during this time of special need. It's time to candidly communicate our problems, develop realistic plans and strategies for the future, put the hurts and divisiveness behind, and get on with the unique mission and potential of William Carey College."

Other business at the meeting, according to the release, included approval of a revised annual budget and the hiring of Arthur Anderson as the new college auditor for the 1988-89 fiscal year. The budget previously approved for next year was \$6.3 million.

China unrest forces new look at Baptist work

By Michael Chute

HONG KONG (BP) — More than half of the 35 Southern Baptist teachers and students sponsored by Cooperative Services International have left China to regroup here and discuss future efforts in the Asian giant.

"It's time for re-evaluation," said Britt Towery of CSI's Hong Kong office. "We can't take a traumatic time like this and move on as usual. We have to determine how we can best be effective in China. We need some time to look at what we do best and how to go about it."

CSI, a Southern Baptist organization, provides personnel and assistance to nations where missionaries do not work. Its efforts in China have focused on education, particularly the teaching of English, as the nation strives to modernize and increase contacts with other countries.

Twelve more Southern Baptist teachers and one student were scheduled to leave China by June 23. The organization still had not learned the status of Stan Huesing, a teacher in nearby Guangzhou (Canton). Although efforts to contact him had failed, CSI officials believed he was safe in Guangdong province's capital city.

"Communication is difficult in China," Towery explained. "It's not easy to get a telephone call through in normal times, much less times like this."

Two of the teachers — John Hippe of Pleasant Valley, Calif., and Joy Hilbun of Baton Rouge, La. — obtained re-entry visas for China and hoped to return there by June 16. They planned to finish the school term at Jia Ying University in Meixian, Guangdong province, before leaving again in early July.

CSI canceled the summer language

institutes scheduled in various universities throughout China but will go ahead with plans for the fall. The organization still plans to place teachers in China as they are invited by various schools.

Even as China's unstable political situation caused CSI personnel to leave, the Hong Kong CSI office received an invitation from Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering to place a teacher there this fall.

Another invitation came from Dali Medical College in Yunnan province. In addition to Hilbun, CSI personnel who plan to return to their teaching assignments include: Ronnie and Ina Winstead of St. Peters, Mo., at Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering; Ken and Lou Ann Locke of Arkadelphia, Ark., at Guangxi University in Nanning; Charles and Thannis Phillips of Arkadelphia, transferring from Zhengzhou to the Coal and Mine Management College in Beijing; Sue Todd of Windsor, N.C., at Nanjing University; and Glen and Rose Davis of Frankfort, Ky., at Nanjing Pharmaceutical College.

"Two concepts have guided our involvement in China from the beginning: to carry out programs identified by the Chinese as valuable and to do it with integrity," said CSI Director Lewis Myers. "The future involvement of CSI will be guided by these principles."

CSI "is still very committed to China," Towery said. "It's now an even poorer country than it was and can't afford this kind of turmoil. When a friend is hurting, you want to be there. We feel an even greater need and urgency because of the amount of pain and suffering."

The teachers had different reactions to leaving China. Some did not

(Continued on page 6)

Pace, Pressler, Wolfe elected

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Executive Committee elected Sam Pace of Lawton, Okla., as chairman and Paul Pressler of Houston as vice chairman during their organizational meeting here.

Pace, director of missions for Comanche-Cotton Baptist Association in Lawton, succeeded Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City, Tenn., as chairman of the 76-member committee.

Pressler, an appellate court judge who has been active in denominational affairs for the last 10 years, succeeded Darrell Robinson, recently elected vice president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Both Pace and Pressler defeated James E. Jones, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Ky. Jones was nominated as chairman, and later for vice chairman.

Elected recording secretary by acclamation was Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. Pace was nominated by Wolfe and Pressler by Gayden Jones of Baton Rouge, La.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS — Officers of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee are (from left) Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville; Sam Pace, director of missions of Cotton-Comanche Baptist Association, Lawton, Okla., chairman; Paul Pressler, Houston appeals court judge, vice chairman; and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., recording secretary. (Photo by Tim Fields)

'Move on to evangelism,' Vines tells Baptists

By Mark Wingfield

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Southern Baptists have settled their disagreement over the Bible and must now emphasize personal evangelism, Jerry Vines said in the annual president's address at the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Southern Baptists have settled the issue of the Bible. Southern Baptists believe the Bible is the incorruptible word of God," he said. "Some may doubt the word of God; Southern Baptists will sow the precious seed. The Bible teaches that the child of God is to take the precious seed of the word of God and go forth and scatter it."

"It is in the very warp and woof of Holy Scripture that those who have the saving seed have an assignment from the great sower himself to spread that seed. If there is anything that Southern Baptist pastors and people agree on, it is our mandate to let every person know about the gospel of Jesus Christ."

"This is the only book I know that can change a human life," Vines said, waving a leather-bound Bible in his left hand.

An emphasis on personal evangelism will "put the joy back in the Southern Baptist Convention," he added. "I believe that with all my heart."

After his election as SBC president last year, "God laid it upon my heart to lead people to Jesus," he said.

"Something wonderful has happened to me this year. It's been the sweetest, most joy-filled year in all my life."

Vines held up a small red book in which he had written the name of every person he led to Christ this year. He flipped through the pages, citing examples.

"I'm not going to tell you how many names are in that book, because to be perfectly honest, I'm ashamed," he said. But he added that the evangelistic thrust of his presidency will bring joy to heaven and earth.

"The greatness of the Southern Baptist Convention is found every day when Southern Baptist people go as Jesus has commanded us to go," Vines said.

"It's time for our denomination to get on the go."

"How are we going to respond to the poignant statement of Jesus when he said, 'The harvest is truly great but the laborers are few'? How are we going to respond to billions of our generation when they say to God, 'I never knew you had a son'?"

"It's time for all of us to sow the seed. If you want to see the joy put back in your church, get involved with sowing and reaping."

"No longer can we sit in our air-conditioned churches, tack a sign on the door which says, 'Come on in you lucky sinners and get saved.'"

"The kind of world in which we live

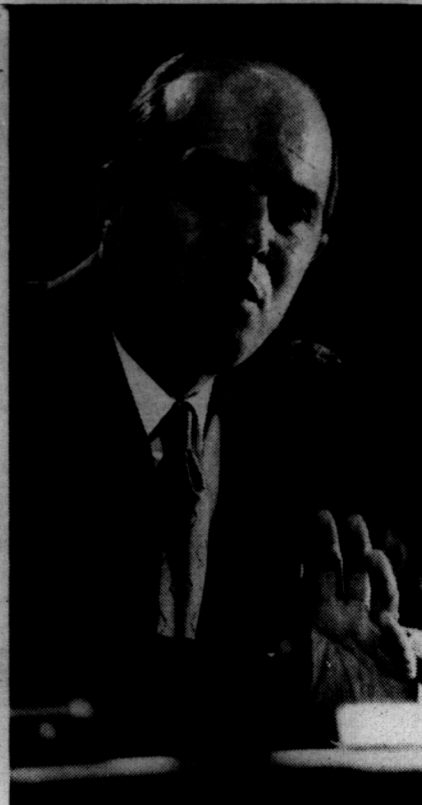
demands that we take seriously the going assignment which the Lord has given us. Let the president run the nation, let Congress pass the laws, let Wall Street handle the finances, let Vegas put on the shows, but let's you and I be winners of souls, going as the Lord has commanded us to go."

Southern Baptists must learn to weep for those without Christ, he said: "We've just about lost our capacity to weep," he said. "Have we come to the point where we are so professional, so businesslike, that we are no longer able to weep over lost people who need Jesus?"

"We're weeping about the wrong things. We're weeping about sexy soap operas and silly songs, and about sentimental movies. But who weeps today over the souls of men without God? There will never be a genuine soul-winning revival in our convention until we get concerned about lost souls."

Vines thanked the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Home and Foreign mission boards, and the six SBC seminaries for their emphasis on evangelism.

"Keep it up. Give us every assistance you can," he said. "Scholarship and soul winning fervor are not mutually exclusive. They are handmaidens. They go together."



President Vines speaks.

WMU approves record budget

By Susan Todd

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — The executive board of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in its June 10 meeting approved a record budget and set upcoming home and foreign mission offering goals during its June 10 meeting.

But one action that was absent was the election of a national WMU executive director to succeed Carolyn Weatherford, who will retire Sept. 1

(Continued on page 5)

SBC honors Carolyn Weatherford by resolutions

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention honored Carolyn Weatherford, the retiring executive director of its Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary for "15 years of outstanding leadership."

Messengers to the convention adopted a resolution of appreciation on the recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee. The resolution praised her for leading the 1.2-million-member women's organization.

During the 15 years she was executive director, contributions to foreign missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering tripled from \$23.2 million to almost \$70 million.

In the same period, gifts to home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering almost quadrupled from \$8.1 million to \$30.8 million. Woman's Missionary Union co-sponsors the two missions offerings with the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

In adopting the resolution, messengers expressed "gratitude to God for the life and ministry of Carolyn Weatherford... (and) for her long and faithful service to Southern Baptists."

SBC Executive Committee President Harold Bennett presented a framed copy of the resolution to Weatherford, and introduced to the convention her fiancé, Joe Crumpler of Cincinnati. Weatherford and Crumpler will be married on August 19.

Las Vegans agree SBCers 'nice folks'

By Anita Bowden

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Las Vegans agree: most Southern Baptists are nice, friendly and generally eager to talk about Jesus.

"They're more considerate than other convention groups," said Jack Smith, supervisor of security for the Las Vegas Convention Center. "They've been more cooperative. Maybe it's because of their religion."

The convention held its annual meeting in Las Vegas June 13-15.

Robert McMaster, a security guard for the convention center, said nearly everyone has tried to witness to tell him about Christ. "But I just tell them I'm Catholic," he said. All that witnessing doesn't bother him, he said. "Nothing offends me."

"They've all been really nice," said Christy Franciosi, a cashier with the convention center's food service. "And I love the way they dress. It's like a fashion show."

One of the shuttle bus drivers who gave her name as Sam also noticed the difference in the way Southern Baptists dress. She stopped several times to pick up people walking to the convention center who were dressed in suits.

"There's another Southern Baptist," she said as she pulled to the curb and offered them a ride. "It's so good to have people on my bus who are not drunk or cussing."

A roulette dealer for a local casino

who didn't want her name used said she had not had any direct contact with the Southern Baptist messengers, but she had been "finding a lot of (witnessing) pamphlets around."

She hasn't noticed any drop in the amount of gambling this week, "because of the fight (between Thomas Hearn and Sugar Ray Leonard)," she said. More people have been in town to attend the boxing match, and they have made up for any slack in gamblers Southern Baptists might have caused, she said.

"I haven't seen one get mad," said Bob Shattuck, supervisor of services for a local hotel. "They're much more patient than other conventioners."

Shattuck, who supervises bell boys and valet parking attendants, said Southern Baptists are about average in their tipping.

"Doctors and dentists are the worst," he said. "No matter how many bags they have, 50 cents is the most you can expect from them."

He's also noticed that Southern Baptists seem to be methodical or perhaps preoccupied in their convention activities. "When it's time to go to a meeting, they all get up and go. They stand in line forever, without complaining," he said.

But he said he was disappointed in one thing. As a Christian, he's surprised no one has tried to witness to him.

'SBC settled Bible issue'

By Mark Wingfield & Kathy Palen

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Southern Baptists have settled "the issue of the Bible," but that does not mean the denomination's 11-year-old controversy is over, Jerry Vines said in a news conference shortly after his reelection as president of the convention.

However, Vines reiterated a pledge made during the annual President's Address to "restore the joy" to the denomination through an emphasis on personal evangelism.

Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, defeated Daniel Vestal of Dunwoody, Ga., in balloting earlier that day by a margin of 12 percent.

"I believe the issue of the Bible is settled in Southern Baptist life," he said. "What I mean by that statement is that Southern Baptists, every time they have had an opportunity to do so, have overwhelmingly affirmed we believe the Bible is without error."

"Those who say that there are errors in the Bible are in pronounced minority in Southern Baptist life. That has been settled."

This agreement, however, does not mean that the controversy is over or that all the denomination's problems are solved, he said. "I do think it means that the administrators of our institutions, that the trustees of our institutions clearly understand the direction which Southern Baptists want to go. I believe the process of theological renewal is under way. I am confident that in a loving and Christlike manner, theological problems in God's good time will be resolved."

When asked to estimate how many professors in Southern Baptist

seminaries do not believe in the virgin birth of Christ, Vines declined to answer.

"Are there any?" the reporter asked.

"We'll let the trustees and the administrations decide that for us," Vines responded.

"You don't want to answer that?"

"No, ma'am," Vines said.

When he was referred to as part of a "fundamentalist faction," Vines said: "I have always asked that I not be referred to as a fundamentalist. If you mean by fundamentalist that I'm one of those who believes in the fundamentals of the faith, yes. But if you mean that I would fall in the category of a legalist, an unloving person, an Ayatollah Khomeini or a Jim Jones, then the answer is no. I would like to be known as a Bible-believing Christian."

Vines said he intends to be the same person in his second term as he was in his first. However, he said he will extend his emphasis on personal evangelism to promote "building great soul-winning churches."

One reporter asked Vines about a statement reportedly made by conservative leader Paige Patterson of Dallas that a "memorial" from the Baptist General Association of Virginia that has been referred to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee would "never see the light of day" at next year's convention meeting.

"I have been very close to the Virginia memorial since the beginning," Vines recalled, expressing appreciation to Virginia Baptist leaders for that involvement. He said he recommended that the Executive

Committee organize a committee to receive the memorial and the concerns of Virginia Baptists.

"I am most desirous that this be done because I personally take the position that we should be responsive to any concerns expressed from anywhere in our Southern Baptist constituency," he said.

Vines addressed a variety of other topics during the news conference:

— Appointments. "My criteria for last year will be my criteria for this year. I will appoint the best Baptists I can find. I will not knowingly appoint anyone who believes there are errors in the Bible."

— Ordination of women. "I believe the ordination of women is a local-church matter. I would not ordain a woman as a pastor or as a deaconess. This is my interpretation. What other churches choose to do is certainly their prerogative." "I'm an optimist. I believe we're going to be moving back up."

— The denominational press. Gene Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder of North Carolina, asked Vines if he would support a free press among Baptists, alluding to alleged attempts by some conservative leaders to control Baptist Press, the denominational news service. Vines replied, "Yes."

— The possibility of deferring any motion on creating a new Religious Liberty Commission next year in the interest of avoiding controversy, as was done this year. "In terms of what I might or might not do concerning that recommendation, it's a little early."



Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, who preached the Convention Sermon, said, "A professor is one who professes, and every Baptist college professor ought to be a born-again Christian who professes faith in the classroom." (Photo by Paul Obregon)

Professors should profess, Chapman tells messengers

By Jim Newton

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Texas pastor Morris Chapman called on professors at Baptist colleges, schools and seminaries Wednesday to live up to their titles by professing their faith in the classroom.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and a Mississippian, said Baptist schools need professors "who believe in the inspired, infallible word of God."

Chapman delivered the annual sermon at the 132nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

"A professor is one who professes," said Chapman, "and every Baptist college professor ought to be a born-again Christian who professes his faith in the classroom."

Chapman said Baptist schools need professors who believe in the virgin birth of Christ; in the Bible as the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God; in the sacrificial, atoning blood of Christ shed on the cross for the salvation of the world; in the resurrection of Jesus from the grave; and in the glorious second coming of Jesus.

The Bible needs no defense "but we do need to defend how the Bible is represented to people," he said.

"The Bible is the inspired word of God, the infallible word of God, the inerrant word of God. Since God is its author, and God cannot lie, the Bible never misleads or deceives. It is without error."

The Bible is "our chart and our compass, our lamp and our light. The word of God is pure and precious, the full and final authority for our faith," he said.

Southern Baptists have been using labels such as "liberal" and "fundamentalists," "moderates" and "conservatives," "right" and "left" to describe various positions of people concerning the Bible, he said, adding, "But it is not a matter of a left turn or a right turn, it is a matter of a right turn or a wrong turn."

He called for members of the 14.8-million-member denomination to build a cooperative spirit. "We must not have friend against friend, brother against brother," he said.

Musicians hear practical advice

LAS VEGAS — Church musicians received practical advice from Southern Baptist church music leaders and elected officers Monday at the 33rd annual session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at College Park Church.

Panel discussions focused on planning creatively for worship and creative approaches to hymn singing.

"Worship services should be well-planned and have a contagious spirit of love," explained Robert Hatfield, minister of music at Dawson Memorial Church, Birmingham.

Additionally, worship should be "user-friendly," making non-Christians feel a part of the service, said Mark Lawson, minister of music at Kirkwood Church, Kirkwood, Mo. Congregational hymn singing

should have an important place in corporate times of worship, said David Hairel, minister of music at First Church, Conroe, Texas.

"The leading of congregational hymn singing can be one of the most rewarding and uplifting experiences we, as ministers of music, can have," Hairel said.

Over 240 participants also heard concerts, various choirs, and Henrietta Davis, concert artist from Oakland, Calif.

In a business session, the musicians presented the W. Hines Sims award to Dan C. Hall posthumously. He was state music secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1967-87.

A resolution was adopted which ex-

pressed concern for the "mounting number of music ministers who are being forcibly terminated from their places of service."

Participants in the music conference also established a scholarship for seminary students who plan to pursue a career in music missions.

The winning entry of the 1988-89 Hymn Search relating to the theme of music and missions was announced. R. G. Huff was the winner with his entry entitled "Fill the Earth With Music." He is minister of music at University Hills Church, Denver.

Musicians elected Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Church, Nashville, as president; and Birmingham's Robert Hatfield as president-elect.

"Women do shape Baptist history"

By Brenda J. Sanders

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Southern Baptist women should be people of destiny and faith, more than 100 participants in the Southern Baptist Women in Ministry annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., were told.

"If you can help bring the joys of Jesus Christ to all the people of the world, starting right here in this city, among this people and this convention, you will have performed a great service," said Catherine Allen, associate executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. "And then going forth from this meeting, if your strength can help untie the ropes of a limited gospel that will bind women to the pews, then you will have performed your mission."

History shows that the cause and

methods of missions have been advanced through the determined efforts of women, said Allen: "Women do shape Baptist history. Our handprints are indelibly impressed on the best and most beautiful features of Southern Baptist life today."

She also noted: "Southern Baptists cannot afford to keep exporting our leadership of women into other denominations and into secularism. And to contemporary women such as yourselves whom might be con-

templating such a shift, I will say you cannot afford to be exported, because God called you in this denomination, and I seriously doubt that it would be in God's plan and wisdom for you to leave such a desperately needy field."

Officers, elected prior to the meeting by the group's steering committee, will serve through the coming year. They are Betty Winstead McGary, minister to adults, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, (Continued on page 6)

Clower tells ministers wives:

"Whooooo-ee! I love y'all"

By Brenda J. Sanders

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — With a characteristic shout of "Whooooo-eeeee," comedian Jerry Clower brought his brand of country humor to the 34th annual Conference of Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon here.

Clower, a recording artist, author, and member of the Grand Ole Opry, told the audience: "I love y'all. I don't know of any group in the world that's more important than the pastors' wives."

Clower, clad in a bright red suit and

white boots, told the group: "Christianity works; it really does! Whatever happens in your life, whatever hardship you got, Christianity works, and I can't fathom Christian folks not lettin' it work."

The ministers' wives elected their 1991 officers during the luncheon meeting. They are Carol Hughes, Independence, Mo., president; Margaret Carter, Jonesboro, Ga., vice president; Margaret Murchison, Augusta, Ga., recording secretary-

treasurer; and June Baggett, Birmingham, Ala., corresponding secretary.

In addition, the organization's outgoing president, Joy Yates, Yazoo City, Miss., passed the gavel to 1990 president Lynda Estep, Columbia, S.C. Other 1990 officers include Rhonda Kelley, New Orleans, vice president; Janet Wicker, Lubbock, Texas, recording secretary-treasurer; and Darlene Herring, Memphis, Tenn., corresponding secretary.

WMU approves budget, sets goals

(Continued from page 4)

and marry Cincinnati pastor Joe Crumpler.

Even though the search committee had hoped to make an announcement by this meeting, National WMU President Marjorie McCullough said the committee did not want to be rushed as it makes the decision. The committee has no projected announcement date, she said.

The board adopted a record budget of \$11,450,568 for 1989-90. The new budget represents a 3.7 percent in-

crease from the current budget of \$11.1 million.

Board members also voted to increase the goal of the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions from \$76.5 million to \$81 million. The decision to increase the goal stemmed from the recent announcement that \$78.7 million had been received for the 1988 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Although the 1988 offering receipts fell short of the \$84 million goal, the figure does represent a 12.7 percent in-

crease more than the offering taken in 1987.

The board also set offering goals for 1990. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$86 million, and the goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is \$41 million.

A new publication was introduced during the meeting. "Magazette" will be published by WMU for the Southern Baptist minister's-wives organization.



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Pressler, Hastey debate Baptist Press problems

By Mark Wingfield

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — In a debate before the Religion Newswriters Association June 10, two Southern Baptists agreed problems exist with Baptist Press but disagreed over the direction the denominational news service is headed.

Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee that oversees Baptist Press, debated with Stan Hastey, executive director of the Southern Baptist Alliance and former chief of the news service's Washington bureau.

Pressler cited a litany of examples of what he classified as Baptist Press wrongdoings but concluded that the news service is improving. Hastey listed examples of ways he felt Baptist Press showed restraint in 10 years of denominational conflict while contending the news service is headed toward becoming a "public relations machine."

The format of the debate allowed each man to speak for 20 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer time. The most intense exchange occurred during questioning, when Pressler reiterated his opinion that Baptist Press articles in the past have been tainted by the personal convictions of writers.

Pressler distributed 87 pages of documentation of what he called factual errors and biases that have colored past Baptist Press stories and other articles by news service writers.

Among those examples was an editorial column titled "SBC Fundamentalists on the March" which Hastey wrote for The Christian Century in 1986 while still a denominational employee. Although the article was not distributed by Baptist Press, Pressler said it illustrated the underlying presuppositions Hastey had brought to his denominational job.

Hastey said Pressler failed to distinguish between news writing and editorial writing in making that accusation.

"That's not the point I was making," Pressler replied. "The point was that the presuppositions and the frame of reference and the attitude of the person writing will frequently color his writing."

Hastey said: "Would you grant me the right to be prejudiced now that I'm off the denominational payroll?"

"Yes," Pressler said. "But I think the fact that you are now head of the Southern Baptist Alliance shows the frame of reference from which you were operating when you were writing for Baptist Press."

"I was entitled as a BP writer — as a Baptist — to have an opinion too," Hastey said. "Denominational employees do not forfeit the priesthood of the believer. They do not forfeit their individuality simply because they're on the payroll."

Pressler responded: "I agree with you. But some people wonder why sometimes the Baptist Press reflects more in favor of one side than the other. I think the predilections of those writing is frequently the explanation."

Pressler said that as a judge he excuses himself from hearing cases where he might be biased by a personal interest.

Likewise, the press ought to be free

of bias, he added, stating that the purpose of the press is to "deliver facts in an unbiased way so people can make up their minds about what the truth is."

Both Hastey and Pressler agreed the BP system faces potential bias because denominational employees write about the actions of their own agencies.

As an example, Pressler cited a late-1970s controversy over Southern Baptist Sunday School Board employee Don Burnett. In that situation, the Nashville bureau of Baptist Press at the Sunday School Board failed to tell all the facts about a lawsuit involving Burnett, he said.

Hastey countered that Baptist Press generally maintained credibility using agency-paid writers until those agencies began to be controlled by more conservative trustees and presidents. He said Baptist Press determined from its beginning to "tell the Southern Baptist story and tell it straight, good news and bad."

"Until a few years ago, Baptist Press always could rely on the Executive Committee itself for the necessary protection any news organization must enjoy to preserve journalistic integrity," Hastey said. "Over the course of the last decade, this protective insulation has been subjected to higher and higher temperatures, both by denominational executives and the Executive Committee itself."

"The scorching Baptist Press writers and editors have been taking, particularly over the past half-dozen years, some day will yield inevitably what its severest critics want: a public relations machine rather than a legitimate news service."

Hastey said the Executive Committee's own meetings have become the most difficult to cover. Only the body's plenary sessions are "on the record." He said the most substantive debate occurs in subcommittee meetings that are covered on "background only" rules, meaning reporters cannot attribute quotes.

"It is in these meetings that Judge Pressler has worked the system to his full advantage, leveling a variety of largely unfounded charges against his favorite targets, including Baptist Press, all under the cover of a rule that prevents reporters from quoting or even identifying him."

Hastey said state Baptist editors and the RNA should have challenged this procedure long ago.

"Judge Pressler's game is quite simply intimidation," he said, adding that Pressler has issued "constant threats" to Baptist Press reporters and editors, including firing. "Despite this constant harassment, Baptist Press personnel have maintained remarkable professionalism in continuing to tell the story of the SBC conflict."

"Baptist Press has gone out of its way not to exacerbate the growing rift between the two sides in the conflict," he said, citing four examples, including:

— That Baptist Press has never reported on "ties to extremist political organizations" by Pressler and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.

— That Baptist Press has

"repeatedly given ground" in debate over what labels to use for the two sides in the conflict and finally "gave in to Judge Pressler."

"Outright control of Baptist Press has been and remains one of Judge Pressler's highest priorities," Hastey said. "He knows, as do all those who work for Baptist Press, that such control very well might be the most valuable spoils in the war over the Southern Baptist Convention."

Hastey spoke from a six-page manuscript. Pressler came to the podium with a three-inch thick file folder of information. Throughout Pressler's presentation, his assistants handed out documentation of his charges against Baptist Press.

Pressler cited at least 14 incidents, including:

— Written statements by former Baptist Press director Wilmer C. Fields calling Pressler and others "a dissident group of fundamentalists."

— Recent coverage of giving to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified budget. Pressler read several headlines and noted, "All of these are bad headlines."

He asserted that the Cooperative Program has done better in recent months than Baptist Press reports would lead readers to believe. "When you have a big increase, it's played down," he said.

Pressler charged that Cooperative Program reports were downplayed to undermine the leadership of current SBC President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla.

— That Baptist Press reported extensive details about the personal finances of layman Lee Roberts, who has been a critic of Georgia's Mercer University, but waited three months to report on financial troubles at Mercer.

Pressler called on Baptist Press to admit errors, apologize when mistakes are discovered and to represent all Southern Baptists "positively and fairly."

When asked if he wanted to purge current leadership in Baptist Press, Pressler replied: "I don't want to see (Baptist Press director) Al Shackleford fired. I want Al Shackleford to be fair and to listen to the other side."

Veteran Arizona leader, Charles McKay, dies

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Charles L. McKay, former executive secretary of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, died June 6 in Yucaipa, Calif., following a battle with cancer. He was 81.

The Mississippi native led the Arizona convention for 14 years, 1956-70. During his tenure, the convention grew from 155 to 230 churches, despite the loss of 52 churches that formed the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention in 1964.

McKay was pastor of First Baptist Church of Pascagoula, Miss.; First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Miss.; Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; Temple Baptist Church,

Two Baptist families exit Gaza after kidnapping

By Mike Creswell

GAZA (BP) — Two Southern Baptist families evacuated from Gaza June 23 following the kidnapping of an American relief worker the day before.

Although the Save the Children worker was released unharmed June 23, the kidnapping prompted fears that other Americans might become targets in Gaza, where a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation has continued during the past 18 months.

Americans remaining in Gaza are staying indoors and out of sight. A total of 11 Southern Baptist career workers and four volunteers — primarily involved in medical care — have continued to work during the uprising, despite schedules often disrupted by strikes, curfews and periodic outbreaks of violence. Earlier in the week, one Southern Baptist couple led a quiet class on marriage while armed troops passed by on patrol on the street outside.

Gaza streets, already impoverish-

ed, have taken on an even more battle-weary look as many buildings have been painted with resistance slogans, which in turn have been covered with black paint by authorities.

The constant pressure and war of nerves, Southern Baptist workers say, have become increasingly difficult to bear. Often they must stay indoors for days because of erratic strikes called by Arab leaders or curfews imposed by Israeli forces. Food has been hard to obtain at times, and water and telephone service frequently have been interrupted. Most stores are open only from 8 a.m. until noon.

One Southern Baptist worker and her child barely missed being shot when they happened to walk into the midst of a pitched battle between rock-throwing protesters and troops who opened fire. The two took shelter in a neighbor's home until the fighting stopped. Other workers have narrowly escaped injury from bombs and rocks as they pass through Gaza in their cars.

Indonesia issues visas

JAKARTA, Indonesia — At last, missionaries in Indonesia have heard some good news about visas. Charles and Barbara Cole are the first Southern Baptist missionaries to receive new visas resulting from an appeal. Cole, a Gardena, Calif., native who teaches at the Baptist seminary, asked the government for more time to train Indonesians. Two other

Southern Baptist couples have appealed on the same grounds, and their new applications are being processed. In recent years the Indonesian government has denied new visas to missionaries who have worked inside the country for 10 years or more under the regulation of the country's Religion Department.

China unrest forces . . .

(Continued from page 3)

want to leave, saying the U.S. State Department failed to pass along enough detailed information to allow them to make an accurate appraisal of their situation.

Those already scheduled to complete their work with CSI moved up their departure date by a week or two. Several were not teaching at the time they left China because students on some university campuses boycotted classes as part of their protest.

Towery called CSI's recommendation to withdraw "responsible" and doesn't believe the departure will harm the teachers' chances of returning or the plans for new teachers being placed. The decision to leave or stay was left to each teacher.

However, three language students placed in China by CSI — Jay

Templeton of Kingsland, Texas, and Jana Clayton of Longmont, Colo., in Beijing and Rhonda Winstead of Liberty, Mo., in Nanjing — were requested by CSI to leave immediately.

"When the U.S. government said it would be best to come out, we felt it was best in some areas," Towery said. Every Chinese region is different and had to be dealt with individually, he explained.

"The teachers have left with a good attitude with the schools," he said. "They (school officials) understand our position. Coming out hasn't broken any relationships. It has made no problems for us" with the Chinese.

"We have to regroup and the Chinese have to do the same thing," he added, saying that university "professors and officials will have to see what the reaction will be on each campus."

Towery emphasized that new teachers and other professionals "don't have to worry about coming. If an institution (in China) invited them, they'll take care of them."

Based in Hong Kong, Chute is Baptist Press overseas correspondent for Asia and the Pacific.

Examples . . .

(Continued from page 2)

that night. Hearing him return them the next morning, he opened the door to receive them. A man was bent over to place the shoes on the floor. When he stood up, the guest looked into the face of Dr. Broadus.

Like Jesus, he had no servant. And like him, he performed an humble service. He had learned the secret of Christian greatness.

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Thursday, June 29, 1989

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Was "pagan" Roman practice better than Baptist practice?

The Romans had a law that an accuser had to face the accused (Acts 25:16).

If Paul's enemies had had their way, the greatest of all Apostles would have been killed, though innocent. His enemies accused him falsely of tak-

ing Trophimus the gentile inside the Jerusalem Temple. Festus wisely followed an old rule (sorely needed to be observed today!); accusers should face the accused! This same Roman rule Bill Moyers desired to follow; but in order to be heard at all, due apparently to the inflexible attitude of our Executive Committee, he had to change his strategy. He resorted to a release to our Baptist Press. Limits of space force us to be brief here, but this is the perception of this matter gain-

ing currency today.

What comes across to Baptists is that Moyers has not been given a fair hearing. We ask: "Does Pressler have something to hide?" Why did Pressler break off the questions Moyers raised on the TV documentary? "Is the Executive Committee true to its purpose to be under the wing and control of Pressler?" We even hear rumors that Shackleford, leader of Baptist Press, was intimidated and pressured, under threat of losing his job, not to run Moyers' release to the Baptist Press. Like Goethe on his death bed, we cry out, "More light, O God," on all of these questions.

Our Executive Committee seems to be content to sweep valid, burning questions under the rug with the laconic statement: "Deleted. Request withdrawn." Baptists need to keep this

inquiry before us. Valid questions have not been answered as yet, nor will they if the Executive Committee has its way. Pressler's connections need to be examined. We do not need Baptist "Popes" and "Curias" nor any other force which would muzzle free expression and legitimate inquiry. The Executive Committee could have rearranged its agenda to hear Moyers if a real desire to hear him had been there. If the Executive Committee had time to listen to Moyers' critics and pass a motion against him — they are therefore morally bound to listen to the accused defend himself! Baptists might find it necessary to find some other forum to hear Moyers. At the same time, the structure of our Executive Committee needs reassessment.

Jerry Vardaman
Starkville

Devotional

Troubled on every side

By Billy G. Johnson
2 Corinthians 4:8

The Christian almost constantly faces challenges to his faith which, if it were not for the grace of God, would cause him to want to give up and quit. There are criticisms, misunderstandings, unkindnesses, discouragements, and, sometimes, just plain lies with which the follower of Christ must deal endlessly. The Apostle Paul expressed it this way, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed..." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

The follower of Christ doesn't give up; he must keep on keeping on. We are not distressed; we do not give in to despair, and we are not destroyed. There is something about God's strength within us which challenges us to go on. Paul Lee-Tan, in a book entitled *Encyclopedia of 700 Illustrations*, quotes a poem about the attitude of the little brown cork. Let me share it with you.

*"A little brown cork
Fell in the path of a whale
Who lashed it down
With the angry tail
But in spite of its blows
It quickly arose,
And floated serenely
Before his nose
Said the cork to the whale:
'You may flap and sputter and frown,
But you never, never, can keep me down;
For I am made of the stuff
That is buoyant enough
To float instead of drown.'"*

Christians are made of that stuff; we might be knocked down, but we get up again! Keep pressing on!

Johnson is pastor, Dixie Church, Hattiesburg.

Pray for All in Authority

(1 Timothy 2:1-2)



Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday
July 2, 1989

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Village receives accreditation

The Mississippi Baptist Children's Village has received a Certificate of Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, according to an announcement by Paul N. Nunnery, executive director of the agency.

"Accreditation, which is for a four-year period, attests that an agency has met a set of nationally established requirements which help ensure quality service," said David Shover, council executive director.

"Accreditation provides assurance," he said, "that the agency is performing services which the community needs, conducting its operations effectively and managing its funds wisely," said Shover.

The Council, sponsored by the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, Catholic Charities USA, the Child Welfare League of America, Family Service America, the Lutheran Social Ministry System, the National Committee for Adoption, and the National Association of Homes for Children, accredits private voluntary and proprietary agencies as well as local direct service public agencies. It accredits over 540 agencies in the United States and Canada and is the only independent accrediting body providing quality assurance over a broad range of family and children's services.

"Women shape Baptist history"

(Continued from page 5)

president; Nancy Furgerson Cole, minister of music, Hanley Road Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., vice president; Donna Charlton-Starkes, associate pastor, Tropicana Christian Fellowship, Las Vegas, treasurer; Carol Causey, training designer, WMU, Birmingham, Ala., recorder; Carolyn Cole Bucy, minister of youth, Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, program chairman; and Sheila Black, director of church and community ministries, Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C., membership chairman.

The women adopted a motion instructing their steering committee to appoint a "project committee" which would explore ways to promote the inclusion of women in seminary curriculum.

Oregon churches must pay tax

PORTLAND, Ore. (EP) — Churches and other religious organizations in Oregon must pay unemployment compensation taxes for their lay employees, the state's Supreme Court has ruled.

The decision does not affect ministers and members of religious orders, who are exempted by laws. It will affect several hundred teachers, janitors, secretaries and other non-ministerial employees in churches and church-related schools.

New hymnal for Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Baptists have prepared a new hymnal for publication in Taiwan. Containing original contemporary hymns written by Chinese pastors and laity, it is the first new hymnal published in Taiwan in 40 years.

HMB directors lament 'inequitable' CP budget

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors have called the convention's proposed 1989-90 unified budget "inequitable" but declined to recommend changes that might be divisive.

A report on the Cooperative Program budget was approved by the board's executive committee during its June meeting. It was presented by Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla., chairman of an ad hoc committee appointed to draft a response to the 1989-90 budget proposed by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

The denominational budget was approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual

meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15. The 1989-90 budget, which jointly funds two mission boards, six seminaries and 11 other national agencies, will channel nearly \$1 million less to the Atlanta-based HMB next year than this year.

"The proposed SBC Cooperative Program budget is inequitable to the Home Mission Board," the report said. "However, the subcommittee feels that the approach of bringing a substitute motion at the convention in Las Vegas to correct this inequity would be counterproductive to the Home Mission Board and its work."

Allen will draft a letter "pleading with them to correct this inequity" in the next budget year.

The Executive Committee, during

its February meeting, proposed a new approach to the Cooperative Program basic operating budget, moving from a goal-oriented budget to one based on performance.

The 1989-90 budget calls for a goal of \$134,787,543 — the amount of actual receipts in the last year of record, 1987-88. It represents a 2.05 percent decrease from the 1988-89 basic operating budget of \$137,610,000.

In other action, board members elected Danny Moore of Atlanta as director of the business services, division replacing Charles Stewart, who was elected director of mission property. Stewart replaces Charles Elder, who will take early retirement. Moore is a native of Dothan, Ala., and worked 21 years as a manager for IBM.

President Larry Lewis reported on progress toward reducing the current HMB budget by \$8.2 million. The reductions are due primarily to a shortfall of income from last year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, the anticipated decrease in next year's Cooperative Program funding and absence of excess reserve funds that have supplemented its budget in recent years.

Lewis said \$5.9 million has been cut from the Atlanta budget. Another \$700,000 was cut by negotiating with state conventions to delete positions that have been vacant for several years, he said.

Lewis said, "we'll be taking a hard look at our work here in Atlanta and in the states."



Powerline for teens

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Undisciplined but still growing

One of the frustrations of youth is wanting maturity yet lacking skills to achieve it, especially in relationships and behavior.

QUESTION:

I am trying to become a better Christian, but I keep failing. I go to Sunday School and church to learn and I participate in almost all the youth activities. But still when I'm with girls I think bad things and at school I break lots of rules. What can I do to grow up?

ANSWER:

Taking the long look into the future can help put things in a manageable perspective.

Observe the normal growth process in any human endeavor. When

you are first learning to skate or ride a bicycle or play tennis, you are not skillful. You feel so clumsy that it's almost no fun! But if you give up, you will never learn and never enjoy that activity. You've got to struggle through the difficult stages knowing that it gets better with practice.

The same is true of Christianity. You start as a mere "babe in Christ," but the growth process begins immediately and never stops. You practice, adventure, fail, get up and start over again. You make strong demands on yourself, learn Christian disciplines, but acknowledge the fact that you will sometimes fall short of what you try to achieve. But look how much further you will be because you did try. Set a high goal, and whether or not you reach it, you will be stronger and wiser and more mature for the effort — more than if you had never tried!

The word discipline means "to learn." Apply it to sex, to personal values, to relationships with others, to yourself in a growing relationship with God. With discipline will come growth, wisdom, maturity, and your best self.

Names in the news

Leroy J. Brewer, Jr. pastor of Parkview Church, Leland, was ordained to the ministry June 4 at Calvary Church in Starkville.

He is the son of Shelby J. Brewer and the late L. J. Brewer, Sr. of Starkville. He is married to the former Sharon D. Nabors of Starkville and they have three children, Leroy III, 8, Valerie, 8, and Nathan, 4.

Brewer recently graduated from New Orleans Seminary with a master of divinity degree. He also is a graduate of Mississippi State University.

James Phillip Rikard of Oxford, 45, died May 23 of a heart attack. He was a deacon and teacher of youth in Sunday School and Church Training at College Hill Heights Church, Oxford. He was active in the Lafayette Association as an executive committee member. He is survived by his wife, Nina; son, Patrick; daughter, Elizabeth; his mother, Georgia Mae Rikard, all of Oxford; and one sister.

Bob Pittman, president of the Mississippi Economic Council, will be at Mississippi College on Wednesday, July 5, to deliver the annual McLemore Lecture as part of the college's American Studies Seminar.

The lectureship is a memorial to the late Richard Aubrey McLemore, former president of Mississippi College.

Pittman is to speak at 10:30 a.m. in the Learning Resources Center of the Leland Speed Library. His remarks will focus on government, ethics, and economic and social change in Mississippi over the years. The public is invited.

Revival dates

Pelahatchie, Pelahatchie: July 5-9; services, 7:30 p.m. Wed.-Sat.; 10:30 a.m. Wed.-Fri.; and 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday; lunch, Wed.-Fri.; Wed., covered dish; Thurs., provided by church; Fri., salads; ice cream fellowship followed Sunday night service; Roy McHenry, First, Okolona, evangelist; Billy Causey, Parkway, Jackson, music; Jerry File, interim pastor; Tim Pierce, minister of music and youth.

Liberty, Liberty: July 9-12; services, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Kermit McGregor, evangelist; Ron and Fran Patterson, music evangelists; Michael W. Glenn, pastor.

Calvary (Webster): July 9-14; Sunday, homecoming, 11 and 7 p.m.; lunch served after morning services; services, Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Rob Faulk, pastor; Chester, evangelist; James Justice, pastor.

Bethlehem, Benton (Yazoo): July 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds with afternoon service of singing and devotional; no night service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; speaker and pastor, John Schoolar; music by Chuck McMinn of Lexington.

National softball tourney to be in Jackson

Hillcrest Church, New Albany, and First Church, Amory, represented Mississippi in the National Fellowship of Baptist Men's softball tournament for 1988. First Church, Amory, claimed second place. This year the national tournament will be held in Jackson. The dates are July 14-15, men's regionals; July 28-29, men's and women's state tournaments; and Aug. 25-26, men's national tournament. Last year the women winners were Wellman Church, Bogie Chitto, Class B, and Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Class A. The men winners were First Church, Amory, Class AA, and Hillcrest Church, New Albany, Class BB. For information write Tom Prather, P. O. Box 509, Clinton, MS 39060.

Manila expects 4,000 at world congress

MANILA, The Philippines — More than 4,000 Christian leaders from 190 countries are expected to participate here in the second International Congress on World Evangelization, July 11-20, which could set the pace for the advance of Christianity for the rest of the century.

Congress participants will grapple with such issues as the Christian church's role in dealing with poverty, racism and apartheid, social injustice and inequity, overpopulation, urbanization, modernization, communication, the role of women and the laity in evangelization, the challenge of other religions, and cooperation in evangelism.

Evangelist Billy Graham, whose organization sponsored the first International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974, will deliver the opening address.

No thoroughly occupied man was ever yet very miserable. — Letitia Landon.

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YOUTH DIRECTORS — Make reservations for your group at "All Night Skate" August 4 during Youth Night in Jackson. Lakeland Skating Center, (601) 932-5323.

Mississippi Baptist activities

July 2

Christian Citizenship Sunday (CAC Emphasis)

HMB

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\$7,500,000

SERIES E

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Effective: July 2, 1989

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5:00 AM	JOY OF MUSIC	"GOOD OLE GOSPEL"	"GOOD OLE GOSPEL"	"GOOD OLE GOSPEL"	"GOOD OLE GOSPEL"	"GOOD OLE GOSPEL"	BIBLE & LIFE
5:30	CHRISTOPHER CLOUSE	"SING OUT, AMERICA"	"SING OUT, AMERICA"	"SING OUT, AMERICA"	"SING OUT, AMERICA"	"SING OUT, AMERICA"	GOOD NEWS
6:00	THIS IS THE LIFE	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	DAVEY AND GOLATH
6:30	WESTBROOK HOSPITAL	KID TIME	KID TIME	DAVEY AND GOLATH	KID TIME	COLOR ME A RAINBOW	SUNSHINE FACTORY
7:00	PROFILES	HUMAN DIMENSION	"FAMILY FILMS"	OUR WORLD	MOODY SCIENCE	PROFILES	SKIPPY
7:30	CHANGED LIVES	"HERITAGE TODAY"	"HERITAGE TODAY"	"HERITAGE TODAY"	"HERITAGE TODAY"	"HERITAGE TODAY"	LASSIE
8:00	ACTS METHODIST	PROFILES	CHRISTIAN L'STYLE MAG	JOY OF MUSIC	OUR WORLD	HUMAN DIMENSION	SOT. PRESTON
8:30	HOUR	ZOLA LEVITT	DAY OF DISCOVERY	HUMAN DIMENSION	CHANGED LIVES	OUR WORLD	LOVE RANGER
9:00	COME ALIVE	ONE IN THE SPIRIT	CATCH THE SPIRIT	JUDY'S KITCHEN	30 GOOD MINUTES	ACTS PRESBYTERIAN	CISCO KID
9:30	(NELSON PRICE)	INSIGHT	RICHARD JACKSON	COME ALIVE	CHRISTOPHER CLOUSE	HOUR	POPCORN THEATRE
10:00	CATCH THE SPIRIT	30 GOOD MINUTES		(NELSON PRICE)	THIS IS THE LIFE	WESTBROOK HOSPITAL	
10:30	DAY OF DISCOVERY	CHRISTIAN L'STYLE MAG	SEARCH	"WORD OF LIFE"	INSIGHT	CREATED TO BE ONE	
11:00	ACTS PRESBYTERIAN	MISSIONS '89	JOY OF MUSIC	CATCH THE SPIRIT	PROFILES	HOW CAN I LIVE?	"PLANT GROOM"
11:30	HOUR	THIS IS THE LIFE	CHANGED LIVES	30 GOOD MINUTES	FIRST UNITED METHODIST	(RAY ARTHUR)	SUPER HANDYMAN
12:00 PM	BAPTIST HOUR	WESTBROOK HOSPITAL	ONE IN THE SPIRIT	CHRISTIAN L'STYLE MAG	JUDY'S KITCHEN	CATCH THE SPIRIT	JIMMY HOUSTON
12:30	(ED YOUNG)	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	OUTDOOR MAGAZINE
1:00	IN TOUCH	KID TIME	KID TIME	DAVEY AND GOLATH	KID TIME	COLOR ME A RAINBOW	BIBLE & LIFE
1:30	(CHARLES STANLEY)	HUMAN DIMENSION	"FAMILY FILMS"	OUR WORLD	MOODY SCIENCE	PROFILES	THE GOOD NEWS
2:00	HUMAN DIMENSION	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	DAVEY AND GOLATH
2:30	MISSIONS '89						SUNSHINE FACTORY
3:00	LOVE WORTH FINDING	PSYCHIATRY AND YOU	PSYCHIATRY AND YOU	PSYCHIATRY AND YOU	PSYCHIATRY AND YOU	PSYCHIATRY AND YOU	SKIPPY
3:30	(ADRIAN ROGERS)	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	SUNSHINE FACTORY	LASSIE
4:00	JOY OF MUSIC	KID TIME	DAVEY AND GOLATH	KID TIME	COLOR ME A RAINBOW	KID TIME	SOT. PRESTON
4:30	ONE IN THE SPIRIT	"FAMILY FILMS"	OUR WORLD	MOODY SCIENCE	PROFILES	HUMAN DIMENSION	BETTER GRADES
5:00	FIRST UNITED METHODIST	ACTS METHODIST	GREAT CHURCHES	ACTS PRESBYTERIAN	GREAT CHURCHES	BAPTIST HOUR	POPCORN THEATRE
5:30	D. JAMES KENNEDY	"HERITAGE TODAY"	"HERITAGE TODAY"	"HERITAGE TODAY"	"HERITAGE TODAY"	"HERITAGE TODAY"	
	ACTS METHODIST	CHRISTIAN L'STYLE MAG	JOY OF MUSIC	OUR WORLD	HUMAN DIMENSION	PROFILES	GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY
	HOUR	DAY OF DISCOVERY	HUMAN DIMENSION	CHANGED LIVES	OUR WORLD	ZOLA LEVITT	SING OUT, AMERICA
	ZOLA LEVITT	SEARCH	WORD OF LIFE	INSIGHT	CREATED TO BE ONE	CHRISTIAN L'STYLE MAG	
	BAPTIST HOUR	JOY OF MUSIC	CATCH THE SPIRIT	PROFILES	INVITATION TO LIFE	MISSIONS '89	BIBLE & LIFE
	(LOEL GREGORY)	CHANGED LIVES	30 GOOD MINUTES	FIRST UNITED METHODIST		THIS IS THE LIFE	GOOD NEWS
	RICHARD JACKSON	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	JOY OF MUSIC
	DAY OF DISCOVERY	D. JAMES KENNEDY	RICHARD JACKSON	BAPTIST HOUR	LOVE WORTH FINDING	IN TOUCH	LIGHTMUSIC
10:30	JACK VAN IMPE			(ED YOUNG)	(ADRIAN ROGERS)	(CHARLES STANLEY)	POPCORN THEATRE
11:00	THIS IS THE LIFE	ONE IN THE SPIRIT	CHRISTIAN L'STYLE MAG	WESTBROOK HOSPITAL	CATCH THE SPIRIT	OUR WORLD	
11:30	"FAMILY FILMS"	JACK VAN IMPE	JOY OF MUSIC	"SEARCH"	BOBBY JONES	"DAY OF DISCOVERY"	
12:00 AM	MOODY SCIENCE	"LIGHTMUSIC"	"LIGHTMUSIC"	"LIGHTMUSIC"	"LIGHTMUSIC"	"LIGHTMUSIC"	"PLANT GROOM"
12:30	HUMAN DIMENSION	JOY OF MUSIC	WESTBROOK HOSPITAL	"FAMILY FILMS"	DAY OF DISCOVERY	JOY OF MUSIC	SUPER HANDYMAN
1:00	MISSIONS '89	CHRISTOPHER CLOUSE	PROFILES	MOODY SCIENCE	JACK VAN IMPE	ONE IN THE SPIRIT	JIMMY HOUSTON
1:30	OUR WORLD	THIS IS THE LIFE	CHANGED LIVES	HUMAN DIMENSION	THIS IS THE LIFE	FIRST UNITED METHODIST	OUTDOOR MAGAZINE
2:00	ACTS METHODIST	SEARCH	WORD OF LIFE	INSIGHT	CREATED TO BE ONE	CHRISTIAN L'STYLE MAG	WORD OF LIFE
2:30		COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	"CATCH THE SPIRIT"
3:00	THIS IS THE LIFE						30 GOOD MINUTES
3:30	"FAMILY FILMS"	CHRISTIAN L'STYLE MAG	SEARCH	WORD OF LIFE	INSIGHT	"FAMILY FILMS"	GOSPEL MUSIC TODAY
4:00	MOODY SCIENCE	MISSIONS '89	JOY OF MUSIC	CATCH THE SPIRIT	PROFILES	MOODY SCIENCE	SING OUT, AMERICA
4:30	HUMAN DIMENSION	THIS IS THE LIFE	CHANGED LIVES	30 GOOD MINUTES	FIRST UNITED METHODIST	HUMAN DIMENSION	

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Golden Gates names VP

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Gordon E. Fercho, vice president of business and administration at California State University in Chico, has been named vice president of internal affairs at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Fercho, unanimously elected by a mail ballot of the seminary's board of trustees, assumed his new post June 19.

As a member of the administrative staff, Fercho will oversee all business and financial affairs, personnel and facilities management. He will be on leave from Cal State-Chico for 6-18 months, after which he will become fully employed by Golden Gate.

Fercho, 56, has been a Golden Gate trustee since 1982.

Amity press continues to run

NANJING, China (EP) — The Amity Printing Press in China, a Scripture press funded largely by the American Bible Society (ABS) and run by the United Bible Society, is continuing to print Bibles for Chinese Christians, despite current upheaval in the country. While the turmoil has "interrupted the daily life of many people throughout China," said Peter MacInnis, Amity's American general manager, "[it] has not affected the city of Nanjing to any great extent."

Southeastern adds staffer

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Raleigh, N.C., attorney George H. Harvey has been named director of development at Southeastern Seminary here, effective June 5.

Harvey, 42, succeeds Robert Spinks, who resigned in 1987.

Baptists buy food for Ghana

NALERIGU, Ghana — Southern Baptists are buying food for victims of a war between tribes in northern Ghana, said Southern Baptist missionary Mary Dempsey. The war between the Konkombas and the Bamobas tribes has left many people dead and others homeless and starving in the West African nation, Dempsey said. Foreign Mission Board relief funds are being used to buy food. Dempsey asked for prayer for peace and enough food for Ghanians. She also asked Southern Baptists to pray "that relief efforts will have a strong impact on the people as a witness for Christ."

Wins speech contest

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Southern Baptist missionary Robert Burris of Dallas spoke with "flawless" Taiwanese in winning the top award in a recent speech contest involving 90 foreigners living in Taiwan, according to a news report in the Free China Journal. In his speech, "Language is the Root of Culture," Burris urged Taiwan to help maintain the Taiwanese dialect as part of the country's heritage.

Bakkers broadcast from old mall

ORLANDO, Fla. (EP) — It might be a dream come true for Tammy Faye Bakker. She and her husband Jimmy have restarted their TV ministry in a shopping mall. But Tammy's not likely to find Gucci, Louis Vuitton, or Lippe Ware boutiques as neighbors; the nearly deserted Shoppers World Mall houses only two bars and a Far East import store.

The Bakkers will work to rebuild their television ministry from a boarded-up department store in the mall here. They broadcast live May 8, with Tammy stepping over broken glass, and wires dangling from the ceiling in the background.

Recorder adds two

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — The Biblical Recorder, North Carolina Baptists' weekly newsjournal, has added two staff members.

Todd Deaton has been elected associate editor, and Lou Anne Stephenson has been elected assistant editor, reported Editor R.G. Puckett.

Deaton is director of news and public relations for North Greenville College in Tigerville, S.C. Stephenson has been an editorial assistant with the Recorder since Jan. 1.

Baptist leader dies in crash

PARAMARIBO, Suriname — Freddy Dijs, a Baptist leader in Suriname, was killed June 7 when a jet he was aboard crashed near the airport in Paramaribo, Suriname. Dijs was the "cream of the crop" among Baptists in Suriname, said Southern Baptist missionary Fred Day. Dijs was a lay pastor in Suriname's oldest Baptist church, Immanuel Baptist, said Day, who worked for seven years in Suriname. Day recalled that Dijs was "a very warm person." Southern Baptist volunteer teams "always flocked around Freddy," who was led to faith in Christ by missionaries Harold and Martha Lewis, he added. Dijs was to marry in about a year, Day said. The young man's fiancée was waiting for him at the airport when the DC-8 plane tried to land in dense fog and crashed, killing most of the 174 passengers.

Poland returns Catholic property

WARSAW, Poland (EP) — In a landmark decision May 17 the Polish Parliament restored the Roman Catholic Church as a legal entity in the Communist country, and returned the property and privileges it enjoyed before World War II. The parliament also approved laws to assure freedom of worship to all faiths.

The move is the first full normalization of church-state relations in a Communist country. It is the result of years of negotiations between church leaders and leaders of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski and opens the way for formal diplomatic ties with the Vatican.

Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds. — George Eliot.

Jerry Falwell affirms SBC, but says won't become member

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Independent Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell affirmed the course of the Southern Baptist Convention but said he has no intention of joining the denomination.

Falwell walked among Southern Baptists for five days during their annual meeting here. He did not appear on the convention program but addressed the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, which met in conjunction with the SBC.

Falwell also used an appearance before the Religion Newswriters Association to announce that he will dissolve the Moral Majority, a political lobby he founded 10 years ago with the help of former SBC President Charles Stanley. The religion writers held their annual meeting in Las Vegas immediately prior to the SBC.

"I am here because I believe the cloud of God is today over those Bible-believing Southern Baptist churches that without a doubt are the shining lights of our nation," Falwell told the evangelists. "In the last 10 years, I have watched something happen in your organization I thought could not happen. I thought the only cure for apostasy was judgment. The last 10 years, history will report, have been miraculous years in which Bible-believing Christians have made an impact."

Southern Baptist churches represent "some of the greatest churches since Pentecost," Falwell said.

Earlier, while addressing the religion newswriters, Falwell dispelled rumors that he and his Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., might join the SBC. "I have no intention of joining the Southern Baptist Convention," he said. "We have our own school to support, our own mission board to support. I would just be one more pastor among thousands of pastors."

"The Southern Baptist Convention

No forced marches, but basic training offered at Gulfshore

There won't be any forced marches or C-Rations, but "Basic Training" will be available this summer at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

The basic training will be in Christian discipleship during the Church Training Leadership Conference at the Pass Christian assembly, July 13-15.

Grady Cothen, retired president of the Sunday School Board, will be guest speaker. Music leader will be Clint Nichols, faculty member at New Orleans Seminary.

The program begins on July 13 with "mess hall" at 5:15. Registration takes place all afternoon beginning at 1:30. It concludes July 15 after lunch.

Friday and Saturday mornings participants are encouraged to "fall out on the pier" at 6:30 for devotionals. (This is optional, however.)

There will be separate conferences for pastors and ministers of education, for church recreators, for directors of missions, for general officers, adult, youth, children's, and preschool leadership, and Bible drill leadership. There will also be programs for youths, children, preschoolers, and babies.

To register, write Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

would be of no value to our ministry.

There's nothing in the Southern Baptist Convention or in our ministry that we cannot mutually enjoy."

Falwell later told the evangelists he wants to work alongside Southern Baptists toward world evangelization. "I am not a loner," he said. "I don't believe any of us can do it alone."

In reviewing the history of Moral Majority, Falwell claimed credit for sending Ronald Reagan and George Bush to the White House by coalescing conservative evangelicals into a "strong political force."

"Thousands" of Southern Baptists have been involved with Moral Ma-

jority and the causes it defended, he said. However, he denied any direct link between the rise of the Moral Majority and the rise of the conservative group that has changed the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Falwell acknowledged he has heard rumors that "Adrian Rogers, W.A. Criswell, Charles Stanley, Jimmy Draper, Jerry Vines and Jerry Falwell all sat down and said, 'Let's take over the Southern Baptist Convention.'"

"There's never been such a meeting," he insisted. "There's never been such phone calls. There's never been such correspondence."

There is immediate need for mature, Christian couples and ladies, age 30 to 60 years, to serve as child care worker on our residential child care staff. Applicants must be in good physical and emotional health, prepared to accept 24-hour per day residential assignment with children.



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Leadership conferences still open at Gulfshore

The following leadership conferences at Gulfshore are still open and people can register to attend.

July 10-12: Church Administration — Pastoral Ministries, Weekday Ministries Conference, Stewardship Conference, and Church Missions Development Conference;

July 13-15: Church Training Leadership Conference; July 27-29: Music Leadership Conference; July 31-Aug.

2: I Sunday School Leadership Conference;

Aug. 3-5: II Sunday School Leadership Conference; Aug. 7-9: III Sunday School Leadership Conference; Aug. 10-12: IV Sunday School Leadership Conference.

To register, write Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

For older youths, adult leaders

Super Summer: training in evangelism, discipleship

Mississippi Super Summer provides a week of training for older youths and adult leaders in both evangelism and in discipleship. The program, July 31-Aug. 4, will take place at Mississippi College in Clinton with more than 450 participants expected.

David Guinn will be featured speaker at Super Summer. He is college minister at First Church, Waco, Tex., where he heads up a program called Action Ministries there.

Musicians for the week will be Gabriel who are returning for their third year with the program. Since 1978, Jeff Walter and Robin Lyle have been presenting their program of music and light-hearted fun to young audiences. Their drummer, Robert Noland, has been with them since 1984.

An adult institute is a part of the week's activities. Churches are encouraged to send youth leaders to Super Summer to prepare them for a yearlong program of discipleship and

evangelism. Rich Malone, minister to students at Parkway Church, Jackson, will lead the adult institute.

Mississippi Super Summer, according to its director, Robin Nichols, who is youth consultant in Church Training for the MCB, offers basic elements of evangelism and discipleship. Second and third year participants take separate classes.

All the students will be involved in "Operation Clinton," a survey and witnessing effort coordinated with local churches. The church will orient the youths and adults to its specific ministries, then direct the surveyors to particular areas of town.

Forty youth ministers across Mississippi help plan and conduct Super Summer. More than 70 adults teach the youth discipleship and evangelism strategies.

Mississippi Super Summer is sponsored by the Church Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Patterson, Criswell College drop attempt to buy school

HEVERLEE, Belgium (BP) — Paige Patterson has ended his effort to buy the financially troubled Belgian Center for Biblical Education, following months of negotiations with the school's trustees.

Criswell College, the Dallas Bible school Patterson runs, was negotiating to buy the Belgian school. But Robert Johnson, chairman of the Belgian school's board of trustees, told European Baptist Press Service June 10: "We have mutually agreed with Dr. Patterson that all of our efforts to negotiate to a successful conclusion are terminated. I think both parties were very sad."

Johnson said Patterson and the

Senior adult corner



Terry Road Church, Jackson will hold its first senior adult (Lively Livers) day, July 2. Vance Dyess will speak at 11 a.m. Following the morning service, dinner and fellowship will be held in the new fellowship hall. Henry Bennett is pastor.

trustees had arrived in principle at a successful purchase agreement. Had Patterson raised enough money, "I think we would have followed through to a successful conclusion," he added.

Patterson, interviewed by Baptist Press June 11, indicated he was unable to gain sufficient financial commitments to fund the school in the future.

"The purchase price itself was not problematic," he said. But "just purchasing it would not solve their problems unless I could raise sufficient endowment or endowment commitments."

He added "One of the greatest tragedies of our era (would be) if that school, with its accreditation and doctoral program, is lost to evangelical Christianity."

Patterson is president of Criswell College and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Sale of the Belgian school would have involved Criswell College, not the Foreign Mission Board. Patterson said in May he needed to raise \$2 million to purchase the school and another \$3 million endowment to undergird its future operation.

In March, Patterson said he would not buy the school if he felt he would imperil its future or the future of Criswell College which has an annual budget of \$4.5 million. Patterson and his staff must raise all of it, he said.

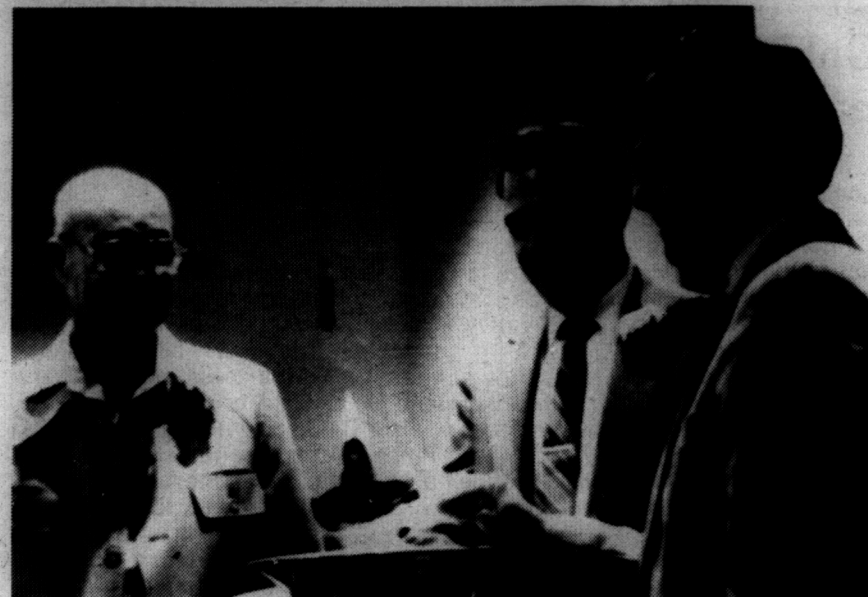
Patterson will contact people who donated money for the purchase, he said.

Just for the Record

CELEBRATE AMERICA will be held at Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson, July 2. Sunday School starts at 9:15 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m., and dinner on the grounds. Afternoon program at 1:30 will consist of a special Flags of Mississippi program, a musical "Liberty" with multi-media presented by the sanctuary choir, and a note burning immediately following. David Merritt is pastor.

Miss Shelly Traxler will be in concert at First Church, Morton, Sunday, July 2, 7 p.m. Performing with her will be Jack Armstrong and the Delta Boys.

A pediatric CPR certification course is being offered by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center on Friday, July 7, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This course is designed for day care personnel and caregivers of infants and children and includes instruction in infant and child CPR and choking management. For further information, call 968-1712.



Bethel Church, Lawrence Association, Monticello, recently held a note burning ceremony retiring the debt of its new sanctuary. The \$210,000 debt was paid three and a half years earlier than was anticipated. Pictured, left to right, are Pete Griffith, chairman of deacons; Archie Herrin, pastor; and Joey Hudson, building chairman.



Rankin County Baptist Association held a Baptist Young Women overnight retreat at Twin Lakes in Florence, April 14 and 15. This was the second associational overnight function with about 24 in attendance. Vicki Tindall of Pearl is the Associational BYW director with Cindy Stevens of Pelahatchie assisting. The retreat theme was "Praise To You."

Staff changes

David Satterwhite has recently been called as pastor to Zama Church, Attala Association. He has served



Satterwhite

as interim since March 5. Since that time several new units have been started, Sunday School has increased by 64 percent, preaching services have doubled, and there have been additions to the church.



Harland

Mike Harland has accepted the call as minister of music at Crossgates Church, Brandon, effective June 21. He goes to Crossgates Church from First Church, McComb.

Ed McDaniel recently became pastor of Trace Ridge Church in Ridgeland. He has been pastor of



McDaniel

Cowart Church, Charleston; First, Durant; First, Greenwood; and First, Richland. McDaniel is a graduate of Delta State University and New Orleans Seminary. He is also a chaplain (LTC) in the Army Reserve.

James C. Hall has resigned as pastor of Airport Church in Grenada.



Hall

He served Airport Church for five and a half years. Hall is available for a pastorate or interim work. He can be contacted at P. O. Box 1226, Grenada, MS 38901, or call 226-4471 (home), 226-1400 (work).

Allen Harris is the new minister of music and senior adults at North Oxford Church, Lafayette Association. He is the former minister of music, youth, and senior adults of First Church, White Settlement, Texas.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Dealing with a nation's sins

By Billy R. Williams
Judges 2:11-19

Someone defined grace as "God's active favor which bestows the greatest gift on those who deserve the greatest punishment." This is certainly an accurate description of God's dealings with his wayward people Israel during the period of the Judges. Even his punishment of their sins was for the purpose of bringing Israel back to himself. In our passage for the week the graciousness of God is amply illustrated in a cycle of four phases which is repeated throughout the remainder of the book. The four phases of this reoccurring cycle are apostasy, judgement, repentance, and deliverance.



Williams

The apostasy of Israel is graphically detailed in its downward spiral in verses 11-13. The people abandoned the Lord God for the gods of the Canaanites. The immoral worship associated with Baal (plural, Baalim), the Canaanite god of fertility, and his female counterpart, Ashteroth, led Israel deeper into sin. Whether it be a nation or an individual who turns from the true God, the course is always downward. While people do not worship gods of wood or stone today, the idolatrous attitudes which dethrone God in people's lives are just as morally and spiritually devastating.

The judgments of God against his apostate people are described in verses 14-15. There are three things to be noted in this section. First, God became angry at sin (verse 14). We may take sin lightly but God does not. The Cross is a vivid reminder of how seriously God deals with sin. Second, we are told in verse 14 that God delivered Israel into the hands of spoilers. The plundering of the Israelites by their neighbors was no accident of history. God could not allow his people to go unpunished for they had disobeyed him and brought dishonor in his name. Just as God worked in history for their deliverance, so now he worked in history for

UNIFORM

their chastisement. He turned Israel's enemies into tools of punishment against them. As a nation America has been richly blessed by God. Do we suppose that God will deal with us any differently than he dealt with Israel if we turn from him? Third, Israel could no longer stand against their enemies (verse 14). Once an obedient people, they had walked in victory, but no longer. One of the tragic results of sin is that forsaking God always weakens those who sin.

The graciousness of God to forgive and to restore is clearly manifested in verses 16-19. In these verses we find the third and fourth cycles of repentance and deliverance. It must be admitted that the third phase is more implied than stated. In verse 18 the words "their groanings" seems to imply repentance on Israel's part. This repentant spirit led to the fourth phase of the cycle, God's deliverance. God did hear Israel and he was moved with compassion. That is the meaning of the phrase "It repented the Lord..." in verse 18. For his people God provided Judges to deliver them from their oppressors. These military and civic leaders were raised up and empowered by God (verse 16). Therefore when victories came through

these deliverers, it was rightly stated that the Lord "delivered them out of the hands of their enemies (verse 18)." The solutions to many of our national problems await our willingness to turn back to the Lord and give him rightful place in the very soul and spirit of our Nation.

The tragic thing about Israel during the period of the Judges was that the people never learned their lesson. Even while God was providing deliverance, the people were engaged in spiritual prostitution (verse 17). Their repentance was so short lived — for with the death of the Judge who had delivered them, they would once again turn from God. The implication of verse 19 is that with each repetition of the cycle, Israel plunged deeper into sin and deterioration.

As we face the celebration of our nation's founding, Americans should rejoice that God deals with us in grace. The reminder that he is ever ready to forgive and restore hopefully will produce within us a grateful heart and a repentant spirit. We must be willing to trust his providence and obey his commands.

Billy R. Williams is pastor, First, Gautier.

God is to be praised, for he is God!

By Randall L. VonKanel
Psalms 33:6-9; 104:24, 27-34

"Praise the Lord!" From the majesty of the "Doxology" to the simple beauty of the chorus, "Alleluia," Christians have sought to express their praise to the God who has revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ. Evelyn Underhill has described worship as "the response of the creature to the Creator." As Martin Luther understood long ago, "To have a God is to worship him." Worship is essentially an act of praise to God for who he is and what he has done. In the lessons in this unit of study, we will be focusing on appropriate responses of worship to various actions of God.



VonKanel

This week we are studying two psalms that teach us to respond in praise to our God who is both Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

LIFE AND WORK

Many of us will be traveling this summer, taking in the sights of the splendors of God's creation. What a wonderful opportunity we have in this lesson to be reminded to direct our praise to the God who made it all!

The psalmist begins in this psalm with a recognition of God as the Creator worthy of our praise (33:6-9). He alludes to the Genesis account of creation with reference to the spoken Word of God. God is to be worshipped, for he created everything "by the breath of his mouth." The Hebrew parallelisms (33:6-7) amplify the majesty of his power to create. Our response should be that of praise as expressed in reverential awe (33:8). God, the One who spoke the world into existence, is to be praised!

God is not only to be praised for his power in creation, but he is also to be worshipped for his loving power in caring for his creation (104: 24, 27-30). God did not detach himself from the

work of his hands. We must not accept the idea of deism that God created the universe and then left it to run its course. The psalmist marvels at the beauty and wonder of creation (104:24), and then identifies the dependency of "these (that) wait all upon thee."

Three actions of God (104: 29-30) are delineated with a corresponding response from creation: (1) If God hides his face, creation is troubled; (2) if God removes their breath, death follows; and (3) if God gives breath, life ensues. Creation is found to be dependent, and God is found to be present, loving, and sustaining, intimately involved in the providential care of his creation. Particularly is this true of his care and concern for us. I remember singing the anthem in Youth Choir, based on the text of Psalm 8. There the psalmist exclaimed, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" God is to be praised for caring for us with his sustaining love.

In the final passage of our focal text, the psalmist declares his praise to God (104:31-34). In view of the glory of the created order, praise

to God breaks forth in joyful song. Verses 31-32 express the truth that God's glory (essence) is revealed in his works. This is not the view of pantheism, which sees everything as God, but rather the understanding that creation is evidence of God's person and power. We cannot but help to praise God when we stand before the panorama of all his works. We will sing with the psalmist, "I will be glad in the Lord."

I think of the time I stood on the edge of a cliff overlooking a Tennessee canyon. A stiff wind was blowing; a full moon shone bright; the night sky was alive with beauty; the lights of a distant city provided their own contribution. In the never-to-be-forgotten moment, I could do no less than sing:

"O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,

Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!"

God is to be praised, for he is God!

VonKanel is pastor, First, Hattiesburg.

Leviticus: laws concerning cleansing

By R. Raymond Lloyd
Leviticus 11:1-16:34

Two quite different blocks of material comprise this passage; yet they are similar in that God desires our whole being to be holy before him. Chapters 11-15 deal with matters that defile the body and the necessity of becoming clean, while chapter 16, deals with the Day of Atonement and the cleansing that God alone can give through the forgiveness of sin.



Lloyd

The Laws Regarding Purity (11:1-15:33) For the contemporary Christian many of these appear to be quite strange and meaningless. While the list of regulations in chapter 11 provides the basis for the dietary regulations of Jewish folk both past and present, there is a much deeper truth being communicated here.

One must not forget the key thought of Leviticus is that Israel was to be a holy people who belonged to a holy God. And they lived, like us, in a pagan world. These laws are designed to protect the holiness. Some suggest that Israel was to abstain from the various animals mentioned because they were used by pagan nations for purposes of worship. Israel was to avoid any association with pagan practices. Very true. A holy people, then and now, must come apart from the world and be separate!

BIBLE BOOK

W. F. Albright has perhaps a more realistic interpretation of this passage. In a pre-modern medical period, these are hygienic practices of the simplest order. These guidelines are an outgrowth of practical experience, for they were able to relate illness, disease and even death to some of these types of animals, fish, and fowl. Do we not today recognize that pork improperly cooked is a carrier of trichinosis; birds which eat carrion can be disease carriers, etcetera?

Moreover, the matter of circumcision in chapter 12 was a hygienic measure and the skin diseases of chapters 13-14 may be of a contagious variety.

While the Christian is not bound by these strange regulations (Acts 10:9-15; I Tim. 4:1-5), and medical science has relieved us of many of these fears, it must be remembered that God is concerned for the whole person. He emphatically states that it is our responsibility before him to be holy and to be clean (vs. 44). In this era of the horrible effects on the human body of smoking, alcohol, AIDS, etc., this passage conveys an eternal truth: God wants a holy people, and that holiness includes the health and hygiene of every person. "Cleanliness is next to," and I might add, a part of, "godliness!"

The Day of Atonement (16:1-34) In the religion of Israel, the Day of Atonement

had a special place. Its purpose is clearly stated in verse 34. The high priest entered into the Holy of Holies this one time during the year to make atonement for his own sins (vs. 6, 11-14, 24) and then for all the sins of the congregation (verses 7-10, 15-22, 24).

The message is clear: before we can become concerned over the atonement of the sins of others, we need to clean up our own house first. How many times sin present in our lives has been a hindrance to our witness to others and our service to God. Likewise, as we are all priests before God, the clergy provides no substitute for a humble and contrite spirit.

Then follows the ceremony in which two goats are provided for this sin offering, one for the Lord, and one for Azazel. The one for the Lord was sacrificed as in the customary manner. The one for Azazel is sent into the wilderness (vss. 20-22). Who or what was Azazel? While some think it may be an ancient name for an evil spirit or demon, it is generally assumed that it represents that which is opposite God. Could we not assume this to be the devil, the author of sin, himself? The priest first of all took the blood of the goat for the Lord and entered into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled it upon the "mercy seat." This was the place of dwelling of the invisible presence of God located on top of the Ark of the Covenant. Sin which had broken the fellowship with God is covered by the blood sacrifice. The word "kippur," means "to cover."

Through this sacrifice, the sin barrier was removed and the fellowship between God and his people was restored. The priest then laid his hands on the head of the goat for Azazel and confessed the sins of the people over it, symbolically transferring such to the goat. Then the goat was sent into the wilderness. Such ritual may seem strange to us, but the Hebrew's thought pattern was objective, not subjective. They not only wanted to know their sins were forgiven, they wanted to see them visibly taken away. What a magnificent, though primitive, way for God to communicate that when he forgives, he "removes them from us as far as the east is from the west." Ofttimes the goat is called the "scapegoat," a term that originated from an old English translation which referred to Azazel's goat as "the escaping goat."

We will miss the true significance of this passage if we do not read Christ's fulfillment of it as described in Heb. 9:6-28, for "it is not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption... but now at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." How wonderful to know that all our sins have been covered by the blood of the Christ of Calvary, and that forgiveness and cleansing is ours when we transfer our sins to Christ by confessing them to him.

Lloyd is pastor, First, Starkville.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Ag projects mean more food for Piaui

Coracarua, Piaui, Brazil, a town of 35,000, had no Baptist church when young Francisco arrived there as a home missionary, newly graduated from the Baptist seminary in Belem. Since the Catholic priest of the area evidently wanted things to stay that way, he led in the persecution of Francisco.

Piaui is a dry, dry state; during times of worst drought, everyone only receives a certain allotment of water. When Francisco's water allotment ran out, the priest told the people not to let him have any more. Francisco had no phone; the people, heeding the priest's warning, would not lend him theirs. They would even sic their dogs on him.

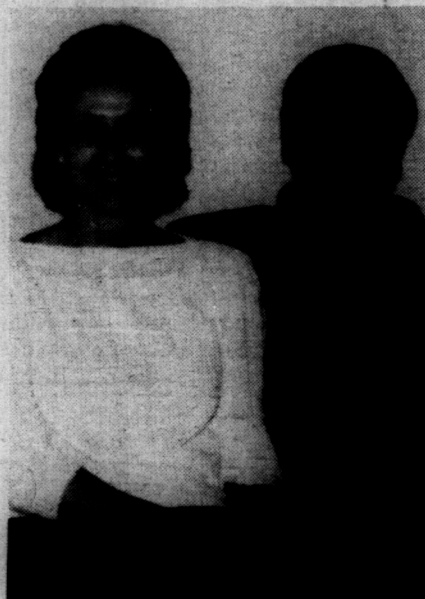
But Francisco knew Jesus, and for ill treatment he returned love. When the town school closed, he offered to teach high school pupils free. Soon he had earned the respect and love of the townsfolk. And he established a Baptist church.

For the past year, Sharon and Vic Johnston, missionaries to Piaui, Brazil, have been on furlough in Mississippi, living at Forest. Last fall Sharon spoke at Cloverdale Church, Natchez, about the need for volunteers to help construct a building for the church that Francisco began, and a pastorium for Francisco to live in. She did not ask for money, only for volunteers. However, Cloverdale immediately offered to pay the \$5,000 it would take to build both church and pastorium, and sent it to the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, to be forwarded to Piaui. (Francisco's salary is paid jointly by the Home Mission Board of Brazilian Baptists and the state Baptist board of Piaui, a part of which comes from Southern Baptist mission funds, so you have a share in his work.)

Vic and Sharon have now returned to Brazil, with their children, Ky, Vince, Jennifer, and Davy. It's even hotter in Teresina, Piaui, than it is in Jackson, and I can imagine them now taking a siesta in the one air-conditioned room of their house. All is quiet between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; even the construction workers at the nearby 16-story building have laid down their tools for a rest. Perhaps Ky has already gone to the American School at Fortaleza, four hours away, where he's in eighth grade. "That's not as far as before," he said. "Sao Paulo, where I used to study, was four days away."

It has been Vic's dream to initiate some special agricultural projects in Piaui. The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, has approved three in the northern part of the state. One will be at the Baptist camp which Vic, a religious education and youth worker, directs, near Teresina. Another will be at Pirauruga, and a third at another village.

At the 48-acre camp, 30 acres have been cleared by slash and burn. Though the 35 families who live on the camp property do not own their land, they get a part of the crops in return for their work. In the three projects, Vic hopes to dig wells, do more intensive gardening with use of compost for fertilizer, and instigate community



Sharon and Vic Johnston

gardening. At the camp, he wants to construct holding ponds for tambuqui fish. These fish, the most sought after ones in the Amazon, he said, will eat cashews, mangos, or other fruits, as well as scraps from the kitchen, other fish, or virtually anything thrown into the pond. Though they will grow larger, he plans to harvest them at 10 pounds. Later he may also introduce different kinds of livestock.

Talented in woodworking, Vic made the benches for the camp. "I used the workshop of the Vo-Tech, a nearby Catholic school," he said. "We need to build at least one more dorm, and our road needs fixing. It has some big gullies in it." Those who attend the 28 camps a year — including a youth camp during carnival time — take their own hammocks, plates, and cups, and wash their own dishes with water dipped from a barrel. "In this way," Vic pointed out, "the dishwashing gets done, and plates and silverware don't get lost as easily."

For the future, he dreams of agricultural projects in south Piaui, perhaps one at Curimata, which must bring its only water from a site ten miles from town. South Piaui, he said, claims one of the world's largest aquifers, or sources of underground water. "The government (Brazil's) is beginning to prepare for the world's biggest irrigation project, in Piaui." For each agricultural project that Vic supervises, a Brazilian Baptist pastor coordinates the planning and action. When a project is complete, and a dedication service is held, many people attend, for they know that Baptists are sponsoring the project that will mean for them more and better food. In some cases, volunteers from the U.S. have assisted. Said Sharon, "Often a dedication service will turn into an evangelistic service."

(To be continued)

Anyone who is not certifiably a Milton had better assume that the first draft is a very primitive thing. All first drafts are deeply flawed by the need to combine composition with thought. Each later draft is less demanding in this regard. Hence the writing can be better. — John Kenneth Galbraith

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Should atheists vote in the church?

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN (EBPS AND VECKOPOSTEN) — The problems encountered by the state-church system in Sweden have once again surfaced, this time in a somewhat unusual way.

A declared atheist who had left the Lutheran Church in Sweden applied recently to be readmitted as a member. He did so, not, because he has become a believer, but because he wanted to run for a position on the church board.

As a matter of fact, the man, far from being a believer, is the founder of an organization called "Atheists-Agnostics."

The Vicar of the congregation rejected his application to compete in the church election on the basis of the man's avowed atheism.

Undaunted, he appealed the decision to the state juridical authorities. They granted him the right to run for church office.

The authorities ruled that since the man had been baptized as a child, the

church has no right to exclude him from membership or from church-related activities.

The editor of Veckoposten, the weekly paper of the Baptist Union of Sweden, commented: "As long as the Government and Parliament have the right to decide over church [questions], it is only right that this possibility be used, in cases like this no matter how absurd. The state-church system is and continues to be an absurdity."

Lawmakers reject pari-mutuel "bail-out"

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Gambling opponents scored a victory in the final days of the 71st Texas legislative session with the defeat of a proposed "pari-mutuel bail-out bill" but lost battles over offshore casino gambling and legalization of "charitable" raffles.

In spite of a last-minute show of support by Gov. Bill Clements, Sen. O.H. "Ike" Harris of Dallas abandoned efforts to pass his bill that would have lowered the state tax on pari-mutuel horserace gambling after a threatened filibuster by Sen. John Leedom of Dallas.

A last-ditch effort by Rep. Hugo Berlanga of Corpus Christi to revive the pari-mutuel "bail-out" in the House of Representatives was rejected 69-65, reconsidered, and then passed May 29. Berlanga's resolution would have allowed the tax cut provision to be tacked onto a bill amending other provisions of the racing act. Leedom's threatened filibuster prevented approval in the Senate and ultimately killed the bill.

The so-called "pari-mutuel bail-out

bill" would have decreased the tax rate from a flat 5 percent to a sliding scale beginning at 1 percent and gradually increasing to 5 percent when betting at a track reached \$500 million per year.

Changes in the racing act that would have permitted telecasting of horse and dog races between tracks for the purposes of wagering and that would have allowed the tracks to operate on Sunday afternoons also were defeated when the bill failed.

The defeat of the pari-mutuel bill came about two weeks after gambling opponents won another victory when a proposal calling for a non-binding referendum on a state lottery was defeated in the Texas House by an 84-59 vote.

However, in spite of opposition by the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, Texans Who Care and other anti-gambling citizens' groups, the legislature approved a bill legalizing casino gambling on ships offering one-day "cruises to nowhere" out of Texas ports. Previously, the law required ships with casino gambling operations

to be "in the course of a bona fide voyage to or from a foreign port."

In hearings on the measure, Weston Ware, associate director of the Christian Life Commission, charged that within four years, gambling operators would apply pressure to legalize casinos on the mainland.

Ballplayer asks Bud to stop ad

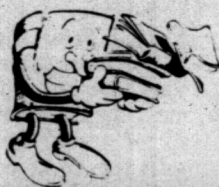
HOUSTON, Tex. (EP) — Glenn Davis, All-Star first baseman for the Houston Astros, objected to Anheuser-Busch, the makers of Budweiser beer, for the use of his name in their promotion "This Bud's for you," and asked the team to stop the ad. The Astros, KTXH-TV, and Anheuser-Busch complied.

Davis, a born-again Christian, said he has a responsibility to provide a role model for young people and did not want his name associated with the beer ads.

The Houston Astros are one of 10 major league baseball teams, including the Minnesota Twins, which connect players' names with beer promotion during games. The commercials "toast" on-field heroics such as a homerun with the copy reading, "[Player], this Bud's for you."

Twins third baseman Gary Gaetti told USA Today, "I support [Davis'] decision. I don't drink and I'm not endorsing any alcoholic beverage associated with my hitting a homerun."

Every team in the major leagues is supported by a beer sponsor, but 10 teams have avoided the player/beer associations completely (Atlanta, California, Chicago Cubs and White Sox, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Montreal, Philadelphia, Oakland, and Toronto).



Book reviews

THE WONDER OF MIRACLES and THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION by Margaret Graham (Harper and Row), \$13.95 each.

These two books are the first volumes in a projected four-volume series, Bible Stories That Live.

In *The Wonder Of Miracles*, Graham retells miracle stories from the viewpoint of those who witnessed them. They begin with the parting of the Red Sea and progress through many of the miracles Jesus performed.

In *The Power Of The Resurrection*, she traces the theme of renewed life, beginning with stories of Job, Elisha, and Ezekiel, and ending with an account of the resurrection of Jesus.

For 30 years, Graham has taught Bible study in a North Carolina high school. In these books, she makes use of her vivid imagination and her talent for storytelling to make the stories come alive; yet she retains the historical accuracy. — AWM

Donnell, Linda B. and Simmons, Carol B.; *BLOOM, The Christian Woman's Approach to Health and Attractiveness*; Briarhill Press; paperback; \$7.95.

As the title suggests, the authors, who are from Hattiesburg, have taken a different approach from the run-of-the-mill books on personal improvement. Chapters include: "Support System," covering nutrition, weight control, and exercise; "Cultivation," particularly interesting since it

stresses your own personality and how to emphasize characteristics which would enhance the features God has given you; and how to minimize those features that are not quite perfect. The third chapter, "Maintaining the Bloom," covers stress and wellness management; and the last chapter, "Fading Bloom," uniquely compares a woman's life to a rosebud which, when lovingly cared for, is beautiful in its peak but is most fragrant as the bloom begins to fade.

This book will be enjoyed by any Christian woman who believes that "... a woman's relationship to God is the most important aspect of her life ..." who wants to be all God intended her to be, physically as well as spiritually. — IBM

Ridenour, Fritz L. *HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN AND STILL ENJOY LIFE*. Ventura, CA.; Regal, 1988.

This is a good book! The book is a study in Philipians. The author selects various themes from Philipians and deals with them in 10 chapters.

The book is written in a relaxed, relevant manner. Each chapter closes with questions to stimulate the reader's thoughts.

The book would be excellent for a weekly Bible-study group or even a Sunday night Church Training group. This is not a scholarly work. It seems to be targeted to the lay-person.

It is a very good book! Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Providence church, Meadville.

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